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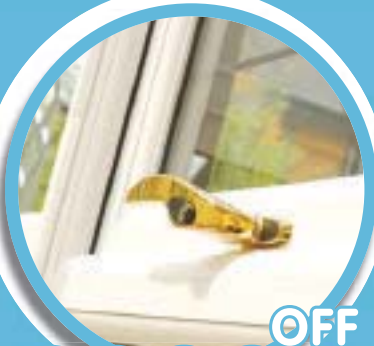
Issue No 125  
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February 17, 2010



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## HEALTH & BEAUTY

Tips and treatments to help you look good and feel even better – See inside



# WATCHDOG IN CALL TO GIVE GYPSIES LAND

MORE sites across Medway should be handed to gypsies and travellers, a new report has found.

The recommendation was made by the Audit Commission as part of the watchdog's report into Medway Council's strategic housing service.

There is currently just one permanent residential area for gypsies and travellers in Medway, which opened in Cuxton in 1962.

Of the ten families who currently call the site home, two have been there since it opened.

The Commission's report found: "There has been a lack of progress in

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

the delivery of additional pitches or sites for gypsies and travellers."

The watchdog's findings were supported by the Friend, Families and Travellers pressure group.

FFT advice and policy manager Emma Nuttall said: "The process of earmarking private or public land that can be used by gypsies or travellers is far too slow."

"We welcome the Audit Commission's recommendation and any additional pressure that can be placed on local authorities to encourage them to find land or pitches for gypsies or travellers."

"At the moment there are homeless families who are living in terrible conditions without access to the most basic of facilities – such as water and electricity – that are taken for granted by most people."

Despite the gypsy site criticism, the Audit Commission gave Medway Council's housing service a 'good' two star rating – significantly better than the zero star rating issued in 2008.

Commission inspectors found the service has tackled and improved poor, private sector housing and had worked hard on preventing homelessness.

The in-depth report does point out

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Picture KEITH SLATER

## GILLS BOSS GETS HIS MAN AT LAST

Super striker Chris Dickson has re-signed for the Gills on a three-month loan deal.

The 25-year-old, who netted 11 times in 14 goals for Gillingham while on loan during the 2007/08 season, is likely to make his second home debut for the club against Bristol Rovers on Saturday.

Blues manager Mark Stimson had been following the forward's progress for a long time and had unsuccessfully tried to lure him to the Priestfield Stadium last summer.

That proposed loan deal broke deal at the last minute, with Dickson joining Bristol Rovers instead.

He went on to score four goals in ten league starts.

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**2** Watch the funeral of Rifleman Pete Aldridge who was killed while serving in Afghanistan. **Search 'Rifleman'**



**3** The Royal Marines are raising funds for Marines wounded in action to take part in 2012 Paralympics. **Search 'Marines'**

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**STALLED:** Work on St Mary's Island was halted as the recession hit the construction industry

# £7m grant will Kickstart work on new homes

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

CONTRACTORS are set to return to work on a stalled riverside redevelopment, thanks to a £7 million Kickstart grant.

The St Mary's Island regeneration project ground to a halt last year after the credit crunch hit the construction industry.

But a £6.93m funding investment from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) will see workers return to the Chatham Maritime site to build a further 550 homes, creating hundreds of full-time and apprentice positions.

South East England Development Agency's Thames Gateway boss Jonathan Sadler said: "We are delighted that the Kickstart funding will enable construction to recommence on St Mary's Island, one of the largest regeneration sites in the Thames Gateway.

"Our vision has been to create a well-designed and sustainable community providing an attractive and

peaceful place for people to live.

"The Island already has a primary school, doctors' surgery, pharmacy, parkland, riverside walks, a community centre and employment opportunities within walking distance."

Countryside Properties' Chris Crook added: "St Mary's Island is a key scheme in the regeneration of Medway and this funding will help reinvigorate the project, providing new and affordable homes, as well as employment for the local area.

"We will be starting on site immediately and expect to complete the first homes later this year."

Moat Housing's Steve Nunn also pledged to build affordable housing on the site.

"We are thrilled that the next phase of homes at St Mary's Island is moving forward. When completed, it will provide even more high quality homes in Chatham", he said.

"Moat will be very pleased to offer affordable homes to local people in housing need at this prestigious development."

The funding forms part of the HCA's national Kickstart programme to help stalled developments across the country.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Offences down after crime crackdown

VIOLENT crime fell by 20 per cent during the festive period, according to new police figures.

The decline equates to 73 fewer cases of ABH, GBH and assaults.

Medway Police's month-long Christmas crackdown also saw reports of other crimes fall.

Criminal damage was down by 40 per cent, with 163 fewer cases reported in December 2009 than in 2008. Robberies were down by 28 per cent and burglaries by 10 per cent.

Sergeant Emma Satherley said: "The campaign was very successful in terms of reducing crime."

## Arthritis drug could bring relief to many

A CLINICAL trial for a new anti-arthritis drug is taking place at Medway Maritime Hospital.

The biotic drug Tocilizumab, which is made from living cells, is being administered to four patients who suffer from the degenerative disease, rheumatoid arthritis.

Consultant rheumatologist Dr Gerald George said: "The drug is fully licensed and is currently going through the approval process to assess its cost-effectiveness."

It is hoped that the drug will bring relief to the 646,000 patients diagnosed with the illness in the UK who suffer with pain and inflammation of the joints.

## Traffic delays likely as slip road is closed

A BUSY slip road will be closed for more than a month while essential ground works are carried out.

Workers shut the connecting road between Strood High Street and Commercial Road earlier this morning in order to fill in a subway.

The works are expected to be completed within five weeks.

A Medway Council spokesman said: "There will be some congestion and delays for motorists, who are advised to take alternative routes, where possible."

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# PDSA vets get puppy Kenzo back on his paws



**CHALLENGING:** Marik Kowlak and his son with Kenzo, and right, before and after x-rays show the damage

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A PUPPY is back on all fours after recovering from a horrific leg break.

Hyperactive Labrador pup Kenzo broke his front right leg last year after tripping up and over owner Marik Kowlak outside their Gillingham home.

Concerned Marik rushed Kenzo to the Gillingham PDSA PetAid hospital, where his worst fears were confirmed.

PDSA Veterinary Surgeon Tim Garran said: "When we first saw Kenzo he was clearly in a lot of pain and extremely distressed and on examining him it appeared that he had a fracture in his front right leg.

"This needed urgent treatment because as a young puppy his bones were soft, so the fracture needed to be treated and set as soon as possible."

Tim and colleague Andy Hunt carried out a complex four-hour operation to treat Kenzo's triple fracture.

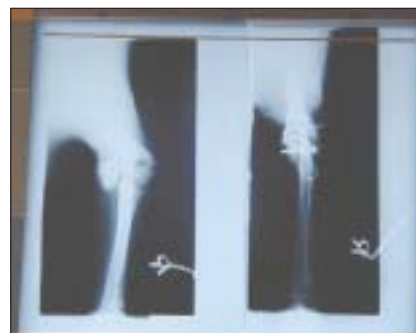
Speaking after the procedure, Tim said: "In my five years as a practising vet I had never seen a break as bad as this.

"We started at about 2.30pm and finished at about 7pm in the evening.

"This procedure was the most challenging I have carried out to date, and it took all of our skills to make sure that we did the best that we could for Kenzo."

While the surgery was deemed a success, Kenzo was far from being out of the woods.

He was kept immobile in the hospital for several days to prevent movement of his leg and



further damage. Once he returned home to Marik and his family he also had to be kept immobile for a period of time to allow the fracture to heal and give him the best chance of walking again.

Marik said: "Kenzo literally was in the doghouse for several weeks, but only to give his leg the best chance of healing properly.

"It was hard to keep him indoors and not take him on walks as he's so lively and active. His sad, mournful face was very hard to resist, but it was for his own good.

"This has been an extremely hard and stressful time for Kenzo and the family but we're so grateful to the PDSA for all their help and it is lovely to see Kenzo back on all paws."

PDSA provides free veterinary treatment to the sick and injured pets of owners in need. For more information about PDSA PetAid services call freephone 0800 731 2502 or log on to [www.pdsa.org.uk](http://www.pdsa.org.uk)



## Mack's back after power cut hits gig

COMEDIAN Lee Mack will return to Medway next month to perform a rearranged gig.

The TV funnyman was due to take to the Central Theatre stage last month, but his performance was cancelled at the last minute after a major power cut left the Chatham High Street venue in total darkness.

He will now appear at 8pm on Sunday, March 2.

The 'Not Going Out' star has also added an extra performance, with a second show scheduled for 5pm on the same afternoon.

Tickets cost £18.50 and are available by calling 01634 338338 or online at [www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk](http://www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk)

Mack, born Lee Gordon McKillop, broke through into the comedy mainstream thanks to winning the So You Think You're Funny competition at the 1995 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

He went on to appear on ITV's The Sketch Show and BBC One panel show Would I Lie to You while continuing to tour as a stand-up.

Prior to his comedy big break Mack once worked as a stableboy, during which time he looked after Red Rum.

## 'Changes we put in place have paid off'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE  
areas for improvement, including the amount of time visitors wait at the council's contact points and the number of sites being delivered to gypsies and travellers.

In summary, the Commission finds: "Strengths outweigh weaknesses in relation to track record. There is a recent and developing track record of improving many aspects of the service.

"Overall, the pace for improvement gives confidence that services will continue to improve in future."

Medway council's community services boss, Howard Doe, said he was delighted with the findings.

"This report is very good news and reflects the hard work and determination of the council's housing department since its inspection in 2008," he said.

"It shows that the changes that we have put in place since then to management and services have paid off.

"We are not complacent though, and realise there are areas that can still be improved and we will continue to work hard to ensure this happens."

## Boss kidnapped by store raiders and forced to open safe

A SUPERMARKET manager was kidnapped and threatened by two hooded robbers who forced him to return to work and open the store's cash-filled safe.

The worker was attacked at 10pm on Tuesday, February 9, as he drove home from the Somerfield supermarket in Parkwood Green, Rainham.

He pulled over his silver Vauxhall Corsa in Deanwood Drive, Rainham, after a car behind flashed its lights.

Two men then bundled him into the back of their car and drove him back to the Somerfield branch.

He was then threatened and told to open the shutters and give them access to the safe.

The man was not hurt by his attackers, but he was left badly shaken.

Police said the precise amount stolen was unknown but it was thought to be more than £15,000.

Detective Inspector Ann Lisseman said: "One of the men involved in this robbery is described as white,



6ft tall and of slim to medium build. He was wearing a red hoodie. Unfortunately there is no description of other offender.

"We urge anyone who was in the area of either the supermarket or the Kingsferry drop-off point on Deanswood Drive to contact us immediately, particularly if they believe they saw either the silver Vauxhall or the man in the red hoodie."

Call Medway police on 01634 792474, Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111 or email [amet.medway@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:amet.medway@kent.pnn.police.uk)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Half-term activity day in the great outdoors

A CHILDREN'S activity day is being held at Capstone Farm Country Park, near Chatham, today (Wednesday).

The programme includes a winter walk, opportunities to build vegetable sculptures and races.

Children's services boss Cllr Les Wicks said: "These play days are great fun for children and families across Medway.

"I hope parents and children head out and have some half-term fun outdoors so that they can enjoy being healthy and active."

Activities run from 1pm to 3pm.

## Go on, pamper yourself

MANICURES, pedicures and Indian massages are available at a weekly pampering session.

The beauty treatments are being run by Julie Mullen at the Saxon Way Children's Centre every Tuesday.

The Face of Grace business owner said: "I run sessions all day, so parents can drop children off at the centre and pop in for a touch of pampering.

"Sessions aren't restricted to parents from the centre. Anyone from the community can pop in and book a session," she added.

## Calling all young actors

A SEARCH for aspiring actors for a special project is under way.

The Play on Words theatre is looking for 13 to 18-year-olds to take a place in an eight-week drama and film-making task.

The Stirring Spirits plan will culminate in an outdoor performance at Fort Amherst in Chatham and other historic sites.

Auditions will take place at the Brook Theatre, Chatham, on Sunday, March 28, between 11am and 3pm.

For more information, call 01634 338319 or visit [www.playonwordstheatre.com](http://www.playonwordstheatre.com).

## Coming back into fashion

VINTAGE fashion is set to return to Rochester. A retro rack will be placed in the High Street Oxfam store.

The vintage collection used to be housed at the smaller Oxfam Originals shop but this was closed last autumn because of a lack of profit.

Bosses have now moved the retro goods to the larger store, near the George Vaults pub.

For more information, visit [www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk).

# Pledge offers a better way to longer lifespan

■ BY MATTHEW BEECH

A HEALTH and fitness campaign has been launched to tackle Medway's low life-expectancy rates.

A Better Medway, thought to be the first campaign of its type in the country, aims to improve the lifestyles of residents by encouraging them to make small changes. The scheme has been devised as a way to counter Medway's average life expectancy rate, which is two years lower than the UK average.

It is hoped by cracking down on key areas of concern, such as smoking, obesity and poor diet, the area can overtake the national figure.

Director of public health Dr Alison Barnett said: "We are aiming to help people make small achievable steps, as one big change can be daunting. It needs to be something that fits into their lifestyles, especially if they are busy."

Visit [www.abettermedway.co.uk](http://www.abettermedway.co.uk) for more information. Meanwhile, a sports scientist has been charged with the task of getting to the bottom of Medway's couch potato problem.

University of Kent lecturer Steve Meadows is carrying out research to find out why many thousands of adults avoid playing sports or undertaking other forms of physical activity.

The study, which is being carried out by Mr Meadows and fellow lecturers at the university's Medway campus, has been financed by Medway Council.

He said it was vital to understand what



**THE PLEDGE:** Carol Curtis, Catherine Johnson, Dr Alison Barnett, NHS Medway's Denise Harker and Cllr Tom Mason

motivation people would require to lead healthier lifestyles. "As a modern, technologically-driven species, we show great resistance to physical exertion," he said.

"The reasons for avoiding regular exercise are likely to be wide-ranging and the physical environment probably has a large bearing on our decisions. People may want more cycle lanes or safer cycling routes before they are prepared to use a bike.

"Joggers might want better street lighting and others may want to see better or more

affordable amenities in parks.

"This is a unique chance for people in Medway to have a direct influence on plans for sports and recreation in their community."

Anyone interested in taking part in the research can access more details on Mr Meadows' blog, at [blogs.kent.ac.uk/anti-clog-blog/](http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/anti-clog-blog/), or email [S.Meadows@kent.ac.uk](mailto:S.Meadows@kent.ac.uk)

The findings will be used by council bosses as part of their strategy to increase participation in grass-roots sport and exercise in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics.

## Ammunition for Gun Wharf transformation



**GUN WHARF:** Artist's impression of waterfront redevelopment for Chatham site

PLANS to redevelop a key town centre area were due to be rubber-stamped by council chiefs yesterday (Tuesday).

The multi-million-pound proposals focus on Gun Wharf, Chatham, extending from Medway Council's new headquarters to Dock Road and bordered by Kitchener Barracks and Fort Amherst on one side and the river on the other.

A report written prior to yesterday's meeting outlines plans to "create an attractive civic and cultural quarter in Chatham, contributing to the wider regeneration of the town centre and waterfront".

Key proposals include riverside cafes and restaurants, commercial and residential space, and pedestrian links to Kitchener Barracks, Fort Amherst and the town centre. The library would be retained.

The ambitious plans are expected to take between 15 and 20 years to realise. Council bosses were expected to rubber stamp the draft masterplan and approve a period of public consultation.

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# Jailed: prison officer mum who covered for killer son



**CONVICTED:** Maxine Liddle, left, disposed of the knife her son Rickie Mount, right, used to murder Adam Beaney

A PRISON officer has been jailed for two years after attempting to help her murdering son avoid arrest.

Maxine Liddle, 44, buried the blood-stained blade her 21-year-old son, Rickie Mount, had used to kill a teenage boy in May, last year.

The former Cookham Wood prison guard also dumped the clothes Mount had been wearing.

Mother and son were arrested after an investigation into the death of 19-year-old Adam Harry Beaney, who died from a single stab wound.

They were both convicted and sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court last Wednesday.

Mount, 21, of Edward Vinson Drive, Faversham, was found guilty of murder and sentenced to a minimum of 20 years in prison.

## Drinking

Liddle, of Forstal, Hernhill, was convicted of attempting to pervert the course of justice and sentenced to two years.

On the night of the murder, Mount had been out drinking with friends in Faversham and sometime after midnight he met Mr Beaney at the recreation ground.

Punches were thrown by Mr Beaney and Mount was seen taking a knife from the waistband of his trousers before punching out at Mr Beaney's chest with the knife in his hand.

After the murder, Mount called his mother and she turned up at his flat shortly afterwards with her partner.

The jury was told she took the clothes her son had been wearing and the knife he had used to kill Mr Beaney.

She left the clothes in a recycling facility in

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

Canterbury and the knife she broke into two pieces, burying the blade under a bush along a country lane at Brogdale, Faversham, and throwing the handle into a hedge nearby.

The blade was later recovered by police.

On sentencing Mount, Judge Andrew Patience said: "This is yet another case where carrying a knife in a public place has led to the death of a young man."

"I will fix your sentence to serve as a warning and to deter others from carrying such weapons."

Outside court, Adam Beaney's grandmother issued an emotional statement, saying: "Our lives will never be the same since Adam has been taken away from all who knew and loved him."

"He was a loving, caring, gentle young man and a loving grandson. We would like to thank the police and all who were involved in bringing justice for Adam."

Detective Inspector Lee Whitehead from Kent Police's Major Crime Department said: "Mount's life sentence and minimum term of 20 years reflect the seriousness of his crime."

"In this cowardly attack, he lured Adam Beaney to Faversham recreation ground, armed himself with a knife from his flat and checked Adam was alone before going up and instigating an argument."

"During the argument Mount stabbed Adam once in the chest, piercing his heart. Sadly Adam, who was unarmed, died from his injuries shortly afterwards."

"On returning home, Mount rang his mother, who disposed of the knife and the clothing he was wearing at the time. Suspended from her job as a prison officer, Liddle admitted lying to the police during the investigation."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## A toast to the new vicar

A DIRECT descendant of the founder of the Guinness brewery will take up his role as the new vicar of a Gillingham church later this month.

The Rev Canon Peter Guinness – the youngest surviving great-great-grandson of Arthur Guinness – will be licensed at St Mark's on Thursday, February 25.

The married father-of-two said he was looking forward to his new position. "This is the first time I've lived in the south and I'm already discovering that people are just as friendly as in the north," he said.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know and being a part of the community in Gillingham and am excited about joining St Mark's."

"My wife Michele and I hope to share some new festivals with a Hebraic flavour – a Passover meal at Easter – open to all the other churches in the area."

## House of the future prize

ARTISTIC youngsters are being invited to design a house of the future, with the incentive of winning a cash prize for their classmates.

The competition is being run by Elephant, a Kent-based window and conservatory company, to help them come up with new ideas for eco-friendly house designs. The successful designer will be awarded a personal prize, cash for their school and their design will also be featured on a giant billboard.

Entries should be sent to Elephant's Design-A-House, c/o PMW Communications, Stane Court, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9HP, or emailed to elephant@pmwcom.co.uk, by February 26.

## Well worth investigating

CRIME writer Matthew C Leach's debut novel will hit the shelves next month.

The 32-year-old Rainham writer's thriller, *These Days Will Be the Death of Me*, follows down-on-his-luck private investigator Frank Downey, whose hand-to-mouth existence takes an unexpected turn when a millionairess offers a reward to find her husband.

*These Days Will Be the Death of Me*, published by Troubador, will be available from Monday, March 1.

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# Gurkha veterans trapped by poverty despite settlement rights victory

THE victory in the campaign for Gurkha settlement rights has been dealt a bitter blow as retired soldiers in Nepal take desperate measures to pay their visa fees.

Some have turned to borrowing from illegal money lenders, while others have sold off precious Nepalese land to meet the £400 costs needed to settle in the UK.

Then Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced in the House of Commons last May that all Gurkha soldiers with at least four years' service in the British Army will be allowed to live in this country.

But these former soldiers have come up against fees that in Nepal – one of the poorest countries in the world – are extortionate.

The average wage in Nepal is less than £150 a year, or about 35p a day.

Actress Joanna Lumley, whose father was a Gurkha officer, led the crusade for Gurkha rights alongside Shepway's Cllr Peter Carroll.

The Absolutely Fabulous star has now written to Home Secretary Alan Johnson asking

for him to waive the visa costs for the 178 retired Gurkhas. Mr Carroll, who founded the Gurkha Justice Campaign in 2004, said he hopes the Government will deal with the situation sensibly.

"Common sense should prevail and these visa fees should be waived," he said. "The costs for visas are per person, so for a family, where they have to pay for each member, it is extremely difficult. It's shocking that some are going to loan sharks and selling land."

Mr Carroll said the problem has not taken away the victory of the Gurkha campaign and he hoped the situation will be dealt with quickly by the Government.

Folkestone town councillor Dhan Gurung, who was the first Gurkha to take office in Britain, said ministers should have looked at how to deal with visas when the settlement rights were agreed.

"These new rights have not been implemented properly," he said. "Veterans who fought for this country returned to Nepal a

long time ago and don't have good pensions or earnings. Many of them are living in the hills and for some it takes days to collect their pension. These Gurkhas are even selling their property to pay for their visas."

He added that widows of former soldiers who are living in Kent have still not received official paperwork, meaning they have no rights to pensions.

"Asylum seekers come here with nothing and the Government supports them, but the Gurkhas have to look after themselves," he said. "We would be grateful if the Home Secretary waived the fees. These Gurkhas fought for this country and they deserve that. Gurkhas are living here but at a different standard to other people in the UK."

Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone is home to the 2nd Bn The Royal Gurkha Rifles, who are serving in Afghanistan, while nearly half the soldiers from the Maidstone-based 36 Engineers Regiment are Queen's Gurkha Engineers.



**RANK AND SMILE:** But retired Gurkhas in Nepal are suffering as they seek to relocate to the UK

# County pulls plug on Kent TV

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

TAXPAYERS have not seen the last of council-run internet television despite County Hall's decision to axe its controversial Kent TV service.

Kent County Council has announced that the contract for the station – which was funded by £1.8 million of public money – will not be extended beyond March.

Launched in 2007 and run by Bob Geldof's Ten Alps production company, the website only attracted about 2,500 visitors per day and came under attack from the opposition and taxpayers who said it was a waste of money.

However, cabinet member for performance management Cllr Roger Gough said the council had not given up on digital media entirely.

He said: "I think we will look at how in other ways this technology can best be used. We want to talk to, and with, residents and internet video will be a part of that."

"We've spent a lot of money redesigning our website and are looking at ways we could use the best aspects of Kent TV on other platforms. There's no doubt we'll be making use of



**UNDER FIRE:** The much criticised Kent TV website will close in March, KCC has announced

parts of it. We're working through how we could do that, but this whole business is going to be dynamic over the next few years so it's important that we do."

Kent TV was intended to be self-funding through advertising by the end of its two-year pilot, but the station only made £10,000 from that source in its first seven months.

KCC originally budgeted £1.4 million for the trial and in 2008 set aside a further £350,000 to cover any extension, which was granted last September.

KCC put a new contract out to tender late last year but it is thought none of the firms who applied to take over management of the site could have done so without funding.

Cllr Gough said: "It was a tough decision but we have to set our priorities straight and the economic situation was a lot different in 2007."

"Kent TV did receive criticism but the critical thing here was finance and the environment we face. There were worthwhile programmes that we are proud of, but we had to consider where this stood in our priorities."

"Kent TV employed 11 people and it's not good for them, but we appreciate the work put in and this decision is no reflection on them."

## Soap opera

Despite almost constant criticism of the internet station, KCC said it was contributing to future savings by delivering information direct to the public. Local businesses gained free publicity from the site, which also provided careers advice and information for tourists.

And an online soap opera promoting sexual health and personal safety for young adults attracted an average audience of just under 10,000 viewers per episode late last year.

However, Kent Labour leader Cllr Leslie Christie said the ruling Tory executive should apologise for wasting resources.

He said: "Kent TV's continuance would have been a political embarrassment to them. This administration has been whingeing for years that it doesn't get enough money from the Government, but wasted £1.8 million on this."

"It is not good enough to say, 'We are living in difficult economic times'. They owe an apology for wasting resources."

Lib Dem leader Cllr Trudy Dean claimed the Tories set up Kent TV to get around the normal ban on councils owning TV channels.

She added: "We have used every opportunity to expose the Conservatives' use of taxpayers' money to buy their own TV channel, and their attempts to exaggerate its performance."

"Much of the content was boring so the viewing figures were disappointing and the channel attracted no sponsorship. This decision is almost £2m too late."

Late last year KCC announced it was facing a £200 million funding shortfall over the next three years and that 600-700 County Hall jobs would be axed.

Tory leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "Kent TV was a brave and bold innovation and we learned a great deal from it. However, we are living in different economic times. Our spending has to be prioritised. We have therefore decided that Kent TV will not continue when the pilot ends in March."

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### DAVID WRIGHT



#### Q What is the History of the IGA?

**A** We were created in 1974 in London by a consultant surgeon Ronald Pitts Crick. He believed that patients would be much more successful in their treatment if they understood exactly why they were being given the medication of the day. His guiding rule was that information about the condition should be the best possible quality and it should be free. We have been based in Ashford for five years.

#### Q How did you get involved?

**A** Both my parents were involved with the charity. They asked me to come in one day and put up some shelves and I never left.

#### Q What is Glaucoma how does it affect people's sight?

**A** Glaucoma is a term that can cover many conditions that can reduce people's eyesight. Our primary function is to advise people who are diagnosed with Glaucoma, reassure them and provide them with all the information they need to help them through it.

Our other main task is to raise awareness generally. We estimate there are half a million people in the UK with the condition and half of them have not been diagnosed. Most people are referred to an ophthalmologist after they've seen an optician. Glaucoma reduces sight from the periphery until it becomes tunnel vision. It's

such a slow insidious disease people don't realise there is anything wrong until there's been 40 per cent damage to the optic nerve. Once you've lost that you can't turn the clock back.

#### Q What should people do if they are worried about their eyesight?

**A** The first port of call will be the optician. If you are over 40 they should do four tests to check the range of your sight and measure the pressure in the eye. If that is too high they will refer you to your GP who will send you to a specialist. If there's any history of Glaucoma in your family you must tell the optician. If this is the case you get the eye test free. The hereditary element is a big factor.

#### Q Is it well known enough?

**A** More people are talking about it. Lorraine Tighe who was on The Apprentice has talked about her experiences and Emma Thompson and her mother have also talked about how it has affected their family. People associate the condition with age but the real message we want to get across is once you notice something might be wrong that can be too late. People need to start thinking about it in their 30s.

#### Q How does the International Aspect of the charity work?

**A** Our website has been translated into several languages and we get enquiries from other

countries who want to learn more about our experience and expertise. We helped Australia set up an organisation and we have also helped groups in France. We recently had a young man who was training to be an ophthalmologist from Nepal. He wanted to look at all the literature we have so he could translate it in his country. We've also funded £2.5 million of research into the condition in the last 10 years.

#### Q Should people be worried if there is a history of it in their family?

**A** When people are first diagnosed it can be a shock and they worry what it means for their future. This is where we can really help to reassure them that it can be treated. If people have a history of it in their family they may be worried about getting their eyes tested but it really is best they know so further reduction in the eyesight can be slowed. We had one patient diagnosed in his 30s and is still driving in his 70s.

#### Q How can people help?

**A** We receive no government funding so we are always looking for people to come up with any fundraising ideas. People can also distribute leaflets in their area or at work, or set up a support group. We run national Glaucoma week in June. If you want to know more about Glaucoma or are worried about your sight call Sightline on 01233 648170 or visit [www.glaucoma-association.com](http://www.glaucoma-association.com).

Q & A

David Wright Chief Executive of International Glaucoma based in Ashford, talks to Ed Hill about the organisation and about the importance of raising awareness of the eye condition to save people's sight

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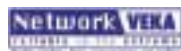
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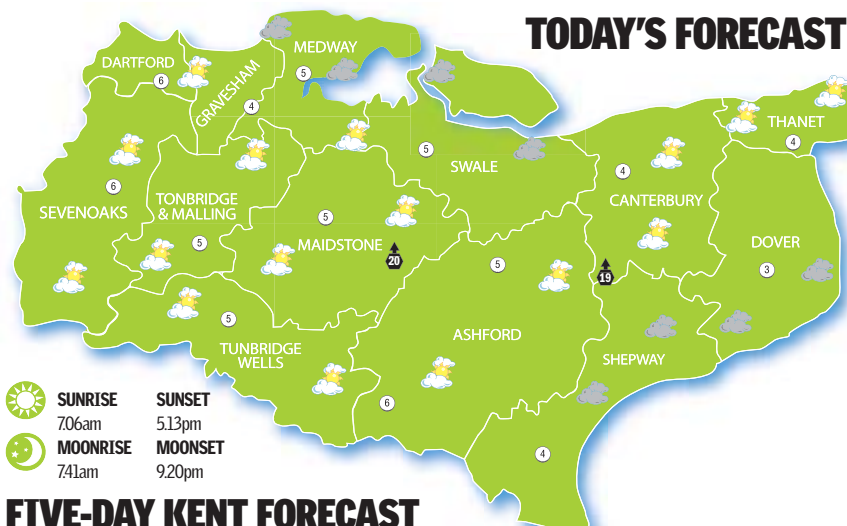




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Chatham	Saturday	4:21pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5:02pm	5.3m
Dover	Saturday	2:16pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:01pm	5.9m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:33pm	7.1m
	Sunday	3:18pm	6.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	2:46pm	4.6m
	Sunday	3:31pm	4.5m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:10pm	5.3m
	Sunday	4:51pm	5.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:59pm	4.9m
	Sunday	4:36pm	4.7m

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	Gravesend	6°C	6°C	7°C	6°C	7°C
Canterbury	5°C	4°C	7°C	6°C	6°C	Maidstone	5°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	7°C
Chatham	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Ramsgate	5°C	4°C	7°C	6°C	6°C
Dartford	6°C	6°C	7°C	6°C	7°C	Rochester	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C
Dover	4°C	3°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	Sevenoaks	4°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	5°C
Faversham	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Sittingbourne	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C
Folkestone	4°C	3°C	6°C	5°C	6°C	Tonbridge	5°C	5°C	7°C	6°C	7°C
Gillingham	6°C	4°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	Tun Wells	5°C	5°C	7°C	6°C	7°C



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	-1°C	Madrid	2°C
Athens	16°C	New York	3°C
Barcelona	6°C	Paris	2°C
Beijing	-3°C	Rome	11°C
Bombay	28°C	Sydney	30°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	6°C	Tokyo	5°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	11°C	Warsaw	-4°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	19°C



**GROUNDING:** Extra petitions are being placed around Medway for people to sign against the Thames airport

## Council chiefs up campaign to stop Boris's airport plans

COUNCIL chiefs have widened their anti-Thames airport campaign in a bid to ensure the scheme never gets off the ground.

Medway Council bosses have placed petition papers in Contact Points across the towns and are calling on Yourmedway readers to show their support against Mayor of London Boris Johnson's "pie in the sky" plans.

It is feared that the proposals – dubbed Boris Island – would lead to catastrophic environmental damage in Medway and north Kent.

The RSPB, Medway Council and KCC launched an online petition against the plans last year but is now looking at reaching the offline community.

Medway Council Leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said: "Putting these extra petitions in our Contact Points will allow those who do not have internet access to join our campaign.

"This will give more people the opportunity to voice their views about the Mayor of London's pie in the sky airport scheme and help us make sure we ground the plan."

For more visit [www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk](http://www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk).

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# Offenders taught the value of saying 'sorry'

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

A SCHEME allowing first-time offenders to avoid punishment by apologising for their actions is to be rolled out across Kent.

The restorative justice programme has been piloted in towns and villages since last year and has proved so successful that police want every neighbourhood in the county to benefit.

It gives wrongdoers the opportunity to talk to their victims about the impact of their offences, and possibly avoid receiving criminal records by offering apologies instead. Det Insp Steve Woollett said he hoped the scheme would result in reduced crime rates in the long term, as those who have to face up to their actions are unlikely to offend again.

He added: "Evidence shows it is a very powerful tool. We want to use it as an alternative to criminalising people for low-level crimes."

"This gives officers the opportunity to use their discretion to sort issues out rather than arresting people unnecessarily."

"Evidence also shows people want apologies, they want reassurances it won't happen again and they want to see the individual make good. When cases are dealt with in this way, often the culprit will not re-offend. It also gives

closure to the victims, as they get to ask questions as to why."

The restorative justice programme was trialled last year in the Cheriton, Morehall, Hawkinge and Lydd areas of south Kent, as well as the Maidstone East, Staplehurst and Shepway wards of mid-Kent.

It was also recently launched in Tunbridge Wells, and was used to deal with a group of hoodies who regularly congregated outside a shop.



STEVE WOOLLETT

An elderly man complained to police that he was too afraid to enter the store when the youngsters were present, so officers set up a meeting between the two sides.

Det Insp Woollett said the hoodies told the man they did not mean to cause alarm by their appearance, and now say hello whenever they see him.

He added: "This is a commonsense way of dealing with problems in the community, bringing people together and resolving issues."

Restorative justice can be used for incidents ranging from minor antisocial behaviour such as graffiti, up to more serious crimes including assault and robbery.

It does not always prevent offenders from being formally warned or reprimanded within the justice system, and can also be used after conviction for more serious crimes.

Officers across the force are now being trained in restorative justice, learning how it works and when it can be used.



ON THE BEAT: PCSO Dave Ansbro - with Borden resident Jim Wood - logging concerns on his hand-held device

## Cutting out the form-filling

BOBBIES on the beat have been kitted out with new hi-tech devices allowing them to log local concerns at the touch of a button.

Constables and community support officers can use the BlackBerry-style technology to record information when talking to residents.

It allows them to build up a database of the age, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation of complainants, as well as the problems common for a particular area.

Insp Evan Jones, of the Sittingbourne neighbourhood team, said: "This technology allows officers to find out exactly what people's concerns are and how we can help them."

"There are no forms to fill in back at the

station. The data can be fed into our computer system within minutes, so officers can remain out on the beat."

The technology was launched in mid-Kent in December and six neighbourhood teams covering Faversham, Sittingbourne, the Isle of Sheppey and Maidstone have access to it.

More than 2,300 people have helped officers identify problems with issues such as littering, dog mess, speeding and graffiti.

Residents can also take part in local Partners and Community Together meetings, Have Your Say days or by contacting their neighbourhood officer.

Details for all three can be found at [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk).

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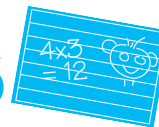
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## BREAK TIME

### Demand up for creative courses

APPLICATIONS to the University of Creative Arts (UCA) have shot up by 87 per cent for the January 2010 deadline, according to the latest figures from UCAS.

The increase is far above the national increase in student applications, which has risen by 19 per cent.

UCA Vice-Chancellor Professor Elaine Thomas said: "We are delighted that demand continues to grow for our courses."

"Changes in the application process this year make exact comparisons difficult, but it is encouraging to see that our applications are more than four times the national average."

"The rise in the numbers of students applying for creative courses at UCA should be another example to the Government that we need to make more places available for creative arts students rather than limiting them."

#### Growing

"The creative industries have been one of Britain's fastest-growing sectors, but we are concerned that our ability to grow and thereby supply this sector with relevant skills could be stifled."

"The Government is making more funds available for STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) subjects and we believe that creative arts subjects should be recognised for their contribution to the economy."

UCA received more than 8,200 applications by the end of January 2010, which is more in line with the usual annual application levels.

# Academy students get wind of university's top facilities

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

THE University of Greenwich at Medway has lent its wind tunnel to aid the development of an electric car.

Students from the Leigh Technology Academy are developing their model car in the engineering department in preparation for the national schools' Greenpower competition.

Fourteen sixth-formers from the Dartford school came to the campus to test the aerodynamics of their car.

The university also unveiled a £2,000 sponsorship to the academy, which will support the school's engineering programme.

Director for the learning of technology, Steve Leahey, said: "This was an excellent experience for the students, who are all working towards their national Engineering Level 3 qualifications."

"We have been competing in the Greenpower schools electric car racing challenge for three years."

"We have built seven cars and have already collected 25 trophies."

"Our work has earned high praise from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers because we incorporate designing and building our Greenpower cars within our curriculum."

"Our students gain real hands-on experience tackling engineering challenges as part of their normal lessons."

"Being able to use the wind tunnel at the University of Greenwich at Medway campus will make a real difference."



**TUNNEL VISION:** Leigh Technology Academy students, from left, Luke Crane, Andy Thomas, Mitchell Higgs and James Ashenden with Dr Stuart Ashenden in the School of Engineering at the University of Greenwich at Medway

"And we will be proud to display the university logo on our vehicles."

"Our next race is at Goodwood on April 25."

"Our young engineers were able to learn a great deal about how drag can effect a vehicle's performance."

"Greenpower is all about developing high-performing electric cars, which are as environmentally friendly as possible. So reducing drag is very important."

The Academy students were welcomed by Professor Ndy Ekere, head of the School of Engineering at the University of Greenwich, Professor Tom Barnes, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Dr Stuart Ashenden, director

of Academic Planning.

Dr Ashenden said: "Our wind tunnel is an excellent facility which is traditionally used by second-year undergraduates studying aerodynamics, particularly in the design of wings in aeroplanes."

"We were delighted to be able to assist the engineering students from Leigh Technology Academy and share our facilities with them."

"They showed a great interest in the wind tunnel testing as well as finding out more about career opportunities in engineering and university courses."

For more information, call 0800 005 006 or visit [www.greenvich.ac.uk](http://www.greenvich.ac.uk).

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Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Medway...

## Continuing work to improve gay rights around the world

FEBRUARY 2010 sees the latest LGBT History Month and this year – on the plus side – Kent Police, whom I've liaised with for ten years or so, have just achieved ninth place on the recent Stonewall (gay rights group) best employers list.

Further, Kent County Council has organised a 'Same-Sex holding hands photo exhibition at County Hall by involving locals and youngsters in particular to take part. They also surveyed on a range of minority group issues asking how best they can assist each group. Many Libraries continue to have LGBT books and DVD's available and I urge people, gay or straight, to take them out. All this helps to move things on even further from the bad old days of local Section 28 policies etc.

Kent Fire and Rescue have also been active, both at gay Pride events and advertising their

services, as well as for staff in gay magazines.

Pride in Canterbury continues to campaign and later this year Thanet gay Pride is set for July 17 in Margate and they will no doubt be advertising this soon.

On the downside, there's been a four-fold increase in attacks on minority groups including gays in the UK, attributed to the recession. This though is no excuse. The recent conviction of a man in Bromley for a murderous attack on a gay couple shows both the risks we gay people still face as well as the action that can be taken. The murderer received a 32-year sentence!

I therefore urge all LGBT people to continue to report any attacks/abuse, even verbal ones, on the countywide freephone link 0800 328 9162.

Even minor ones, as it gives the authorities an idea of where trouble spots are. In solidarity, any racist attacks, whether on straights or gays, should be reported via freephone 0800 138 1624.

Worldwide sees varied reports. China instituted gay cafes and nearly allowed a gay pageant, but this was stopped by police over 'sup-

posed' procedural matters. Seems operating even slightly outside state sponsorship there can be tricky. In Mumbai, India, things appear to be slowly improving but in Africa it's far worse for LGBT persons especially in Uganda, Malawi and Nigeria, though Rwanda and South Africa may be brighter spots.

Campaigner Peter Tatchell and people around the world, including many politicians, have been campaigning against the hatred that's inspired by both old colonial-laws and religion.

On religion, we've seen the departure of two homophobic CofE Bishops in Kent, Nazir Ali at Rochester and to an extent, S Venner at Dover, but the Pope is due in the UK in September and will address both houses of Parliament. It's likely many groups will be wanting a word about his, and the Church's, ongoing opposition to progress on many social and sexuality issues.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.**

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We want to hear your views



**EMAIL:** Letters, comments, views (along with your name) to: [yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk)



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### LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk).

Write to The Editor, Yourmedway, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

\* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion



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A LEADING academic has drawn up plans to set up an elite university in the heart of Kent to rival Oxford and Cambridge.

Dr Terence Kealey, vice-chancellor of the University of Buckingham, has approached Imperial College London about using the disused Wye College, near Ashford, as a site for the proposed institution.

The campus is owned by Imperial and was previously used for agricultural studies and, until last summer, as a business school for the University of Kent.

An Imperial official confirmed the college had been approached by the University of Buckingham – the only private university in the country – about the site.

Dr Kealey said the proposed university would be an extension of Buckingham and would be a future rival to Oxford and Cambridge.

“We want to set up new educational activities in the buildings of Wye College, offering a selection of subjects,” he said. “It is the perfect location, close to Europe, Eurostar and the Channel ports – ideal for international students.”

# University planning elite new campus in Kent to rival Oxbridge institutions

Dr Kealey said the private university would focus on quality teaching rather than research, offering smaller class sizes, better personal contact and small group tutorials.

He also stressed a private institution would not be restricted by the Government.

“Traditional universities are limited by what they can do due to the financial memorandums they have with the Government,” he said.

“They have no say over student numbers or what fees they can charge, due to the grants they receive from Westminster. We are about freedom – many academics believe universities should not be Government-run.”

The institution would charge about £10,000 a year in tuition fees, whereas traditional centres cost about £3,000.

Asked whether a private university would restrict poorer families from getting a place, he said: “At the moment, yes. Buckingham does not have large endowments and we do charge fees upfront. In future, however, we hope the university will have a big enough endowment fund to offer places to students regardless of family income.”

He also argued that tuition fees in mainstream universities were going to rise sharply in the coming years.

“Private universities are cost-effective. Students study throughout the first two years and work in their third year,” he said.

Dr Kealey also claimed criticism against private universities was unfounded.

“We simply do things a different way,” he said. Subjects such as liberal arts and law could be based at the campus.

Wye College was the centre of controversy in 2006, when Imperial put forward plans for an international research centre and science park. Residents said it would turn their picturesque village into a town and the proposals were eventually abandoned.

## Reverend breaks the ice at theatre

AS the new chaplain of the Marlowe Theatre, Reverend Mark Ball is stepping into a brand new spotlight.

Although his predecessor as Priest in Charge of the Canterbury city centre parishes also held the post, Rev Ball will be the first priest to preside over the theatre in its exciting new incarnation.

The multi-million pound redevelopment will not be completed until next year, but he has already been getting his skates on and breaking the ice with performers.

Last month he met the Russian Ice Stars when they performed at the Marlowe Theatre Arena, the temporary venue which has been set up at Kingsmead. It was an interesting first job for him in a role that will involve meeting a diverse range of characters.

“Initially, it’s about getting to know all the staff who are working in the administration and management of the theatre,” he said.

“Every time a production comes to the theatre, I get to know everyone involved.”

The life of a stage performer might seem a glamorous one, but it appears that those in show business have a need for support and advice, particularly when on the road.

The Actors’ Church Union has been pro-

moting the Church of England’s work since 1899, maintaining a link between Christianity and theatres, studios and performing arts schools all over the country.

“It’s about getting to know the teams in terms of offering a welcome from the church, as well as someone to speak with and listen to them,” Rev Ball said.

“Especially for visiting teams who have been on the road for a long time, away from home, they need someone to listen to them. It’s an expression of the church’s pastoral care for everyone, but particularly in the theatre.”

Rev Ball, 38, previously held the role of chaplain at an acting school in Essex, so he is no stranger to the creative life.

“I have a general interest in the arts. I think the theatre can contribute a lot to the community, in a lot of ways, and I enjoy it.”

He has been parish priest in Canterbury for 18 months and is looking forward to working with the new Marlowe Theatre, which will offer a greater range of high quality productions to audiences in East Kent.

See [www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk](http://www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk) to find out more about the new Marlowe Theatre.



SLIP: Rev Ball with the Russian Ice Stars

## 'Swine flu jab – too much, too late'

A LABOUR MP and doctor said he was frustrated at the lack of swine flu vaccine early on in the pandemic that killed more than 14,000 people around the world.

Dr Howard Stoate, the MP for Dartford, is also a practising GP in Bexleyheath. He said delays in the production of swine flu vaccine early in the campaign had an effect on uptake.

The doctor said when people needed the vaccine not enough was available and now supplies are finally through, few need it.

Dr Stoate is also co-chair of an all-party group that quizzed GPs and healthcare agencies about the NHS's performance during the pandemic in an information gathering process to assess how well it had gone.

The group said the drip-feed of vaccine arriving at practices during the height of public concern was deeply worrying.

Dr Stoate said now GPs have supplies arriving at their surgeries, it is simply too late.

“At one time at my practice we had hundreds, perhaps thousands, of phone calls with people saying, ‘Can we have the vaccine?’ But now it is available, people don’t want it. That’s a tragic situation.”

He said: “No-one is really to blame. The companies that manufacture it couldn’t keep up with demand. Hopefully valuable lessons have been learned so if there is another outbreak, the system will work faster.”

Swine flu cases have dropped steadily across the UK, and the National Pandemic Flu Service ended on Thursday. Anyone now concerned they have it should stay at home and contact their GP. Antivirals will still be prescribed and be available through designated pharmacies.

Health chiefs in the county said if cases start to rise once more, the service will be back up and running within a week.

For more information, visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).



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# yourcompetition

## WIN! Tickets to the 2010 Vitality Show



**RUNNING** from March 18-21 in London's Earls Court 2, the UK's largest health, beauty, fitness and wellbeing event for women returns.

So whether you want to revitalise, invigorate, inspire or simply spoil yourself, make sure this year's Vitality Show – sponsored by leading insurer Simplyhealth – is a confirmed date in your diary.

New attractions include the inspirational One Life Show, POM Wonderful Kitchen, with resident chefs on hand to whip up tasty, healthy snacks using pomegranate juice; a skin consultation bar offering free advice on

how to keep your skin looking fresh and young; and a gluten free village, full of information and advice on the latest allergies and food intolerances.

Whether it's taking some time out for yourself or finding the perfect opportunity to get together with the girls, this year's Vitality Show is the ideal place to be – and we've got ten pairs of tickets to give away PLUS great goodies from some of the exhibitors!

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime

telephone number to Vitality Show Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is March 10, 2010.

**Question:** Where is the Vitality Show being held?

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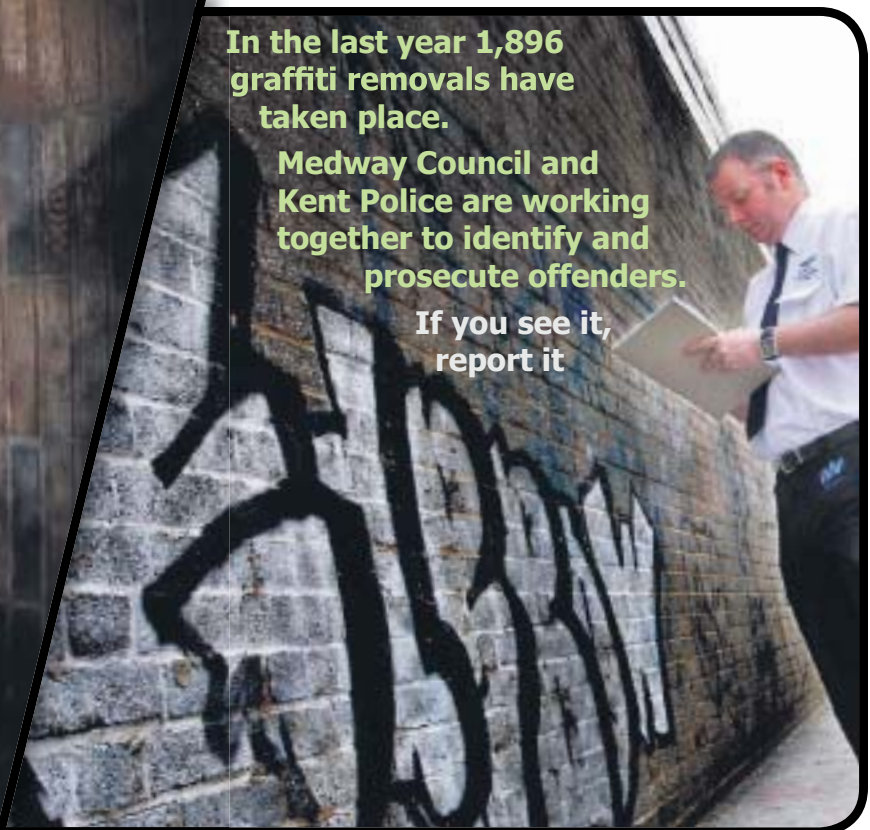


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# yourletters



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**EMAIL:** Email us your letters to us at yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk

## TALK TIME

### HANNAH COOK

Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre manager talks about climate change.



#### Tell us a little about yourself

I went to school in Medway before attending the University of Kent to study a degree, followed by a PhD in microbiology. I worked for the NHS, then the RSPCA.

#### How did you become involved with the centre?

I saw the post advertised and thought a job that combined management and research skills with a passion for wildlife and green spaces sounded just up my street.

#### What are its aims?

To collect, collate and make widely available wildlife and habitat information for Kent and Medway.

#### How could climate change affect in Medway?

We are receiving more reports of migrant species. We are often the first port of call for species that would previously have found the weather unfavourable. We are bound to notice more if climate change continues and one of our roles is to record these sightings.

## YOUR LETTERS

### Reality check time



Councils remain isolated from the economic realities that people working in the private sector have had to endure for two years.

I don't want people to lose their jobs, but councils should be able to save money without cutting services. Take a look next time you are in the council HQ and tell me the offices are not over-staffed.

The private sector has suffered pay cuts, job losses and downsizing. Time for councils to recognise that we can't keep forking out more cash – we don't have it.

Charles Goodwin, by email

### Justice for Adam

I'm glad for Adam and his family on the sentence that piece of



## COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk) website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think.

And remember, [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk) is updated daily, bringing you the latest news from across Medway as well as our villages.

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work got. I knew Adam through his sisters, Louise and Shanice, and they spoke highly of their brother. I know everyone who knew Adam misses him dearly as much as I do. I really feel for the Beaney family.

Rachel Moon, comment posted on [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk)



## Astonishing claim

Paul Clark MP has said that it is a "simple oversight" that he has been asked to pay back £11,000 for a mortgage.

This is an astonishing claim and beyond belief. He said that in the run up to Christmas he failed to read a letter from Sir Thomas Legg properly and therefore it is a mistake.

Yet the letter was sent to him on the December 8, which was weeks before Christmas.

Mr Clark must have had a long



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Christmas break, or is he just making excuses for his own incompetence? It is also worrying that a minister makes a simple mistake like this and it makes me wonder what else he has failed to read.

Surely a minister for transport, who has to make important decisions, should be more careful with what he reads and be less accident prone.

**Cllr Mike O'Brien, Rainham Central**

## Expenses derailed

I am shocked to see the Gillingham and Rainham MP has been forced to pay back more than £11,000 for his second home in London.

Why does Paul Clark need a second home in the first place? Is it that he believes that the rail service isn't good enough? London is 50 minutes by train from Gillingham, yet Mr Clark spends much of his time in the London flat. Perhaps if he spent more time in his constituency and had to get the train every day, we'd see a better service.

**Name and address supplied**

## Change of emphasis

Which is it: training camp in Medway at Medway Park; or train-



ing camp in Kent at the Black Lion? The money the council wastes on name changes and services to people outside of the Medway towns is beyond belief.

How about no name changes and a bit of action for people locally? Gritting the roads might be useful to tax-paying residents.

**Alan, Gillingham, comment posted at www.yourmedway.co.uk**

## Lazy? Don't be stupid



Following your blog about 'lazy' teachers taking a 'holiday' at the first sign of snow. I am a teacher, and had been perfectly prepared to get into work, and did on two days when neighbours (not teachers) did not. It isn't teachers who decide if a

school is shut; it's a decision made by a headteacher based, quite rightly, on a specific set of circumstances. If the school site is dangerous or icy, litigious parents might see this as a cash cow for minor accidents. The roads and paths outside many schools were dangerously icy. Also, I am not aware of any of colleagues who had a 'holiday'. I used it to plan lessons and catch up with the mountain of work teachers toil late into the night to deal with and, more often than not, on weekends and during holidays. If teaching was so easy and teachers so lazy, one wonders why so many leave the profession early. My previous career was much less stressful and involved far less work. If I wanted a 'lazy' job I could do office work, then I might have time to indulge in Facebook and Twitter. Ultimately I am a professional, who wishes to impart the best quality education I can.

**Gavin Gray, by email**

In our school it isn't teachers who make the decision to close, it's the head – so please don't blame the teachers. In my school we all went to work every day, completed our nine-hour working day and still took work home every night.

**Margaret Wittich, by email**

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# yourmedwaymusic

## Top line-up takes to the stage for Haiti benefit gig



■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

A CHARITY fundraising gig in aid of the people of Haiti after last month's devastating earthquake is being held at Folkestone's Quarterhouse venue tonight.

A wide variety of music from punk and indie to country blues will be on stage in order to cater for as many tastes as possible and help raise money for the estimated two million left homeless by the disaster.

Janine Gray, who helped organise the gig, said: "I have so far found everyone we approached to be incredibly generous with their time and money."

"Googies Art Cafe raised £280 towards our fund already and the Quarterhouse staff have been incredibly helpful – I know we are going to have a huge list of people to thank by the end of this project."

"I am really excited by the line-up so far – we have one or two more things in the pipeline to announce yet."

Chatham man Pete Molinari, who was discovered by Billy Childish, is arguably the biggest draw of the night.

The blues guitarist will perform a number of his self-penned tracks, which have drawn comparisons to Dylan, Guthrie and other inspired greats.

The Archie Wah Wahs, a band described as playing catchy ska songs with lyrics about broken hearts and unhappy endings, combined with feelings of optimism and hopefulness, are also on the bill.

Grunge folk artist Tess, one of the people



**DOING THEIR BIT:** Medway's Pete Molinari, left, will join The Dealers, above, at the Quarterhouse's fundraising gig

behind the Zig Zag festival, will be previewing tracks from his forthcoming album *Magpie*, with his distinctive dynamic style, introspective lyrics and memorable guitar playing.

And Pierre Vincent's band The Dealers will be showcasing their new line-up, which includes violinist Gemma and percussionist Malcolm, playing tracks from album *Charcoal* on Black Paper together with a back catalogue of self-penned material and the odd well-chosen cover.

Fellow organiser John Baker, who runs the County Hardware shop in Cheriton, said "I really felt that I wanted to do something that would be a great fundraiser for the benefit of the earthquake victims."

"We hope to give music fans a terrific night out at the new arts venue Quarterhouse at the same time."

There will also be a charity raffle or auction for prizes and other events. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets cost £8 in advance or £9 on the door. Visit [www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk).

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**DOUBLE WHAMMY:** Pop duo Callista perform Kings of Leon's Use Somebody.



**ROCKING IT:** UpCDownC play songs from their set on The Ether.



### TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 The Suspects - 27/2 King Edward VII, Margate
- 2 Craig Sheridan - 27/2 The Alma, Deal
- 3 Shelta - 5/3 Water Rats, Grays Inn Road
- 4 Audio Bullies - 19/3 Westcoast Bar, Margate
- 5 Rock Night (various artists, including Colt 44) King Edward VII, Margate

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tomers require expert medical attention on any number of subjects.

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The facility is open Mondays to Fridays from 8am to 7pm with some Saturday morning openings as well.

Kings Hill Medical Centre, 37 Queens St, Kings Hill ME15 4JF. Call: 01732 844244. [www.ctcmedical.co.uk](http://www.ctcmedical.co.uk).

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## TOP TIPS

### Village Hotel

Three hours after exercise, you should consume a regular meal (with protein in it) to continue the muscle rebuilding process. Do not 'treat' yourself to sweets or alcohol as your muscles will still be crying out for protein. Call: 01622 656944.

### Canterbury Skin

If you are concerned about unwanted hair, you are probably a good candidate for laser hair removal. A course of four to six will usually give long lasting to permanent results. Particularly useful in large areas such as legs, bikini and back. Call: 01227 472288.

### Capelli Hair

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# Brothers in arms

Enthralling musical tells tale of twin brothers thrown together by a twist of fate after being separated at birth

### BLOOD BROTHERS

Thursday, February 23 to Saturday, February 27  
Assembly Halls Theatre, Tunbridge Wells



FAMILY ties refuse to be broken in Willy Russell's enduringly popular musical, *Blood Brothers*.

The record-breaking show has been thrilling audiences since 1988 and continues to enthrall with its tale of twin brothers separated at birth.

Set in Liverpool, the show is one of the longest-running musicals in history and has enjoyed a record-breaking run on Broadway, where it was nominated for seven Tony Awards.

Now this moving story of two brothers whose fates are intertwined comes to Kent, supported by KOS Media.

When Mrs Johnstone discovers that she is pregnant with twins, financial desperation forces her to confront a heartbreaking dilemma.

Her wealthy employer is unable to have children and is keen to take one of the babies off her hands, so Mrs Johnstone reluctantly agrees to the deal and promises never to reveal the truth.

Over the years, the boys grow up on opposite sides of the tracks and it appears that their lives could not be more different. All the while, they are watched by Mrs Johnstone who continues to guard her increasingly painful secret. But a twist of fate will put them on a collision course as it becomes clear that blood really is thicker than water.

For this tour, the role of Mrs Johnstone is played by former *New Seekers* star, Lyn Paul. She first played the role in 1997 and is considered by many fans to be the quintessential Mrs Johnstone, bringing out the character's grief and love in a remarkable way and belting out the tunes with her fantastic voice.

The show's memorable score is renowned for its honest and moving lyrics, including the songs *A Bright New Day*, *Marilyn Monroe* and *Tell Me It's Not True*.

Willy Russell is a renowned writer with a number of notable plays under his belt, including *Educating Rita* and *Shirley Valentine*, both of which were made into hit films. He has also written films, books and film scores and is considered one of the most successful playwrights of his generation.

Tickets are priced from £14.50 to £30.50. To book call the box office on 01892 530613/532072 or visit the website at [www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk).

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## WHO'S BAD

Wednesday, February 24  
Central Theatre, Chatham

**CELEBRATE** the legacy of a pop legend when top tribute band Who's Bad visits Medway.

From the early days of the Jackson Five through to his solo glory years, the career of Michael Jackson is explored with a whistle-stop tour through the decades.

Complete with glittering gloves and glitzy jackets, Who's Bad is an infectious party show that will have both Jackson devotees and fans of great pop music tapping their toes.

Who's Bad was formed in 2004 and since the death of Jackson last year, it has become a fantastic way for fans to pay tribute to the legendary artist.

Direct from the US, the show is visiting just two Kent venues during this tour and promises to entertain audiences with outstanding music, moves and memories.

The song list includes such timeless hits as Thriller, The Way You Make Me Feel, Bad, Beat It, The Girl is Mine, Earth Song, Man in the Mirror, ABC, Smooth Criminal, You Rock My World, Billie Jean, Don't Stop Til You Get Enough and many more.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £23.50/£22.50. To book call 01634 338338 or visit [www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk](http://www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk).



## THE HOBBIT

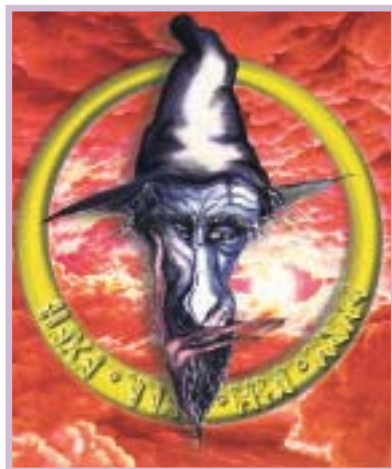
Tuesday, February 23 to Sunday February 28  
Orchard Theatre, Dartford

**MAGIC**, mystery and mountains are in store in the wonderful story of The Hobbit.

Fans of JRR Tolkien's classic book will be swept away by this exciting production which has played to nearly half a million people during three national tours and two Christmas seasons in the West End. With a Hollywood film version in the pipeline, this is a perfect time to experience the wonder of Tolkien's creation on the stage.

Many perils await as Gandalf the Sorcerer leads Bilbo Baggins and his Dwarf friends on a very important journey.

They must find some powerful hidden treasure and return it to its rightful owners, but first they must travel through the Misty Mountains, Mirkwood and many more frightening trials. They must survive the attentions of trolls, goblins, wolves and giant spiders, only to face the deadliest dragon of all, in this fantastic tale that will delight audiences of all ages.



Tickets are priced from £11 and concessions, family tickets and group rates are available. Book online at [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01322 220000.

## JAZZ CONCERT

Friday, February 19  
RAF Association Club, Chatham

**MUSIC** lovers should not miss a concert by some of the jazz world's most outstanding female musicians this week.

Sister Sadie pays a visit to Medway to delight the audience with the music of Horace Silver, in an event that should prove unforgettable for jazz fans.

Featuring the Clare Hirst Quartet, the band is extraordinarily talented and will provide a fantastic start to Coljazz Promotions' new season of concerts.

Band leader Hirst enjoyed a career in pop music, playing with the likes of David Bowie, Mica Paris and the Communards, before making the successful transition into jazz.

Also appearing are Barbara Snow on trumpet, Andrea Vicari on piano and Julie Walkington on bass, along with the one man in the line-up, drummer Dave Barry.

The band will be playing music by a true jazz icon, Horace Silver, whose tunes have become jazz standards.



With songs like The Preacher and Sister Sadie due to feature, the evening should be a real delight for those who like blues, gospel-tinted tunes and straight-ahead jazz.

The show starts at 8.30pm and admission costs £10. There will also be a raffle.

## MEDWAY LEISURE

### My Fair Lady near a street where you live

WOULDN'T it be lovely to enjoy a classic musical performed in Tonbridge this week?

Surrey Opera presents My Fair Lady, the popular story of a Cockney flower girl who is transformed into a lady.

The is at the EM Forster Theatre at Tonbridge School from tomorrow until to Saturday.

Performances start at 7.30pm daily, with a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday, and tickets cost £19.50/£17.50, concessions available. To book call 01732 304241.

### Dance company to show how much it has evolved

WITNESS the evolution of talented dancers when the Hazlitt Theatre hosts a showcase by Directions Performing Arts.

Two years after their first performance on the Hazlitt stage, the company returns with its new show Evolution, in which students demonstrate their exciting talent.

The show is at the theatre from today until Saturday. Tickets are £11/£9.50. Book online at [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01622 758611.

### Local band celebrating a decade of performing

FACE to Face celebrated their 10th anniversary on the circuit last year.

The local band covers rock hits with vocals from a female singer who has been leading the band for more than a decade.

See at the Walnut Tree in Forge Lane, East Farleigh, at 9pm tomorrow. For more information call 01622 726368.

### Acoustic selection from accomplished guitarist

FROM rock and pop to blues and acoustic, Paul Wells has more than 30 years' experience as a guitarist.

On Friday he will be playing songs by a wide variety of artists when he visits a pub in Maidstone. Find out more about him at [www.paulwellssolo.piczo.com](http://www.paulwellssolo.piczo.com).

Paul is playing at the Bower Inn in Tonbridge Road at 9pm. For more information about the pub call 01622 677181.

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## ON GENERAL RELEASE

### EDGE OF DARKNESS (15)



Mel Gibson and Ray Winstone star in this dark thriller, adapted from a 1985 BBC mini-series. Gibson plays a veteran detective forced to investigate the murder of his daughter after she's killed in front of him.

### PONYO (U)



This is the latest animated masterpiece from Oscar-winning anime legend Hayao Miyazaki, drawing on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy-tale The Little Mermaid for inspiration.

### THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (U)



Walt Disney makes a break with tradition by casting its first-ever African-American princess in this enchanting reworking of the classic Grimm Brothers' fairytale.

# Del Toro has a few hairy moments in newest role

■ BY DAMON SMITH

SOME of cinema's most iconic creatures including Count Dracula, Frankenstein's monster and The Mummy hark back to the golden age of Universal Studios in the 1930s and 1940s, when Boris Karloff, Bela Lugosi and Claude Rains stalked the big screen with malicious intent.

The furry fiend known as The Wolf Man first howled at the silvery moon in 1941, with a suitably hirsute Lon Chaney Jr in the lead role.

Almost 70 years later, the eponymous beast runs free again across the blood-spattered English countryside in director Joe Johnston's affectionate remake.

Gleefully gory and tongue-in-cheek camp, The Wolfman is a diverting yarn, so long as you accept the film in the spirit it is intended; as a B-movie with expensive make-up and visual effects.

The film opens by establishing the existence of the voracious creature in the woods surrounding the late 19th century hamlet of Blackmoor.

At the behest of his brother's fiancée, Gwen Conliffe (Emily Blunt), stage actor Lawrence Talbot (Benicio Del Toro) returns to the sleepy community to help search for his sibling Ben, who has vanished without trace.

After a fractious reunion with his estranged father (Sir Anthony Hopkins) and manservant Singh, Lawrence discovers that Ben is dead, eviscerated by a creature of the night.

Scotland Yard Inspector Aberline arrives in Blackmoor to investigate the brutal slaying, and witnesses the devastation of the beast



**HAIR-RAISING:** Benicio Del Toro plays The Wolfman

firsthand after it attacks Lawrence and leaves its mark upon the nobleman.

Lawrence grows ever closer to Gwen and as the next full moon looks down upon the village, something ungodly stirs in the Talbot mansion, hungry for human flesh...

With graphic scenes of mutilation, decapitation and dismemberment, The Wolfman certainly doesn't stint on the fake blood as the tit-

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ular predator slashes through an entire supporting cast, and a few of the lead actors too.

Director Johnston orchestrates some tense set pieces, with the requisite edge-of-seat jolts and scares. The lighting design is especially effective, concealing characters and their sins in the shadows, lit by the occasional flash from a gun barrel.

Lawrence and Gwen's romance is too hurried to be credible, undermining the tearful finale.

Antony Sher out-camps the lot of them with a ridiculous accent as Dr Hoenninger, the London-based medic who foolishly believes Lawrence's lycanthropy is all in his tortured mind.

He'll learn... the hard way.

**THE WOLFMAN**  
Certificate 15

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**MEDWAY SHOPPING**

**Strut like a peacock at  
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GET hot new fashions at cool prices when a new Peacocks store opens in Canterbury on Thursday.

The new store in Canterbury High Street gives shoppers the chance to buy the latest designer-inspired women's, men's and children's fashions at high street prices. As well as increasing the city's shopping options, the new store will also bring 33 new jobs to Canterbury.

To see the latest ranges go online at [www.peacocks.co.uk](http://www.peacocks.co.uk).

**Upcycle your look at  
the Recreation Store**

SWAP something you do not want for something you fancy at the Recreation Store in Dover.

The shop in Bench Street closes at the end of this month, so don't miss your last chances to shop for 'upcycled' pieces. The swap shop is open from 11am to 3pm every day except Sundays.

On Saturday, February 27, the store will be holding a 'one day only' sale from 11am to 3pm. To find out more visit the website at [www.remadeindover.net](http://www.remadeindover.net).

**Bake your way to  
winning £100 voucher**

CUSTOMERS can get involved in the celebrations as White Stuff in Sevenoaks marks its first birthday.

On Friday customers are invited to bring along their culinary creations to the boutique in High Street and take part in a birthday cake competition. Two special guests will judge the contest at 4pm and the best baker will win £100 White Stuff vouchers. Cupcakes will be sold with proceeds for [www.guidedogs.org.uk](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk). Visit [www.whitestuff.com](http://www.whitestuff.com).

**It's finally hair! Malika  
opens Bluewater salon**

DISCOVER that hair removal does not have to be hair-raising as Malika opens its new salon at Bluewater.

Using the ancient technique of threading, staff remove hair and shape eyebrows in a relaxing setting with soothing music in the background. The company already has four successful threading boutiques in London and now customers at Bluewater can fit a treatment into their day of shopping.

Visit the website at [www.malika.co.uk](http://www.malika.co.uk).

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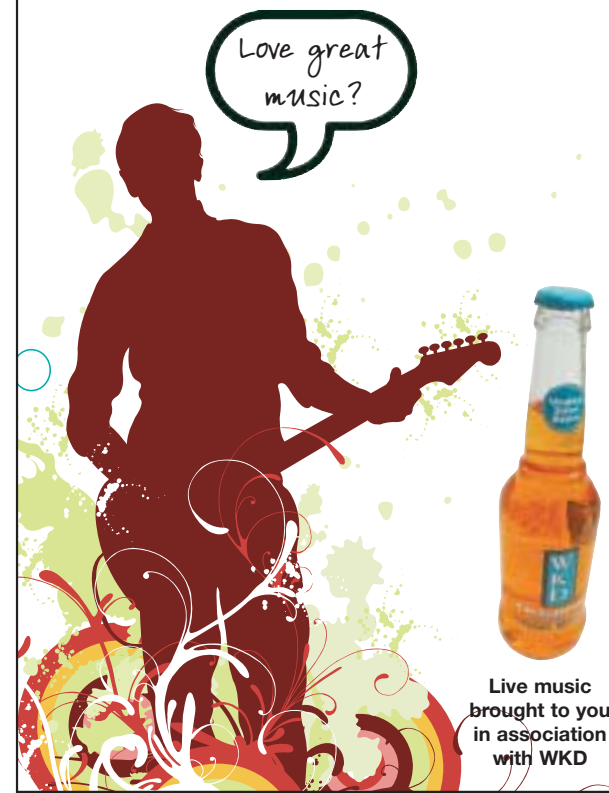
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# Breathtaking deep-blue beauty

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

WITH dry desert heat and healthy coral just hours away in Egypt, there's no reason not to learn to dive.

All scuba-diving novices receive the same instruction: never go anywhere without your buddy. That relationship, my instructor in Egypt explained, can keep you alive.

Having spent two days learning to scuba-dive among the colourful reefs of the Gulf of Aqaba, northern Egypt, dive-master John decided we were now ready for a deep dive.

"This site is called the Blue Hole," he says. "There's nothing to worry about, although the start involves going upside down through a tunnel."

Wishing myself back to our five-star hotel Le Meridien Dahab – a cool breath of modern luxury just a few miles away – I took a deep breath. Then remembered I'm not supposed to do that. For newcomers, the initial stages of learning to dive can test your nerves and patience.

Your first day will be spent kneeling underwater in a cold swimming pool, wearing fins and strapped to an oxygen tank.



**FLOATING FREE:** Diving on the Gulf of Aqaba reefs

As you are repeatedly asked to fill your face-mask with water, forced to remove your oxygen supply and told off for crashing while attempting not to shoot to the surface, you may find yourself questioning your choice of holiday activity.

Particularly when just metres away other guests are being served cocktails by the waiters and revelling in a delightfully temperate climate. Yet I made it through those testing times and, the worst over, our dive-master takes us on a tour of the coral.

Pointing out various fish, he keeps making a

strange hand signal which I eventually realise means "sea turtle". Spotting one is an unworldly experience and I realise how lucky I am to be there.

Our group stops to stare into dark holes, where fishy eyes peer back out of the gloom, before swimming through tiny clouds of bright blue fishes, teased out of their hideouts. The coral is in beautiful condition and home to a range of fish, including cleaner wrasse which swim into the mouth of our fun-loving dive-master.

Our hotel, Le Meridien Dahab, is on the outskirts of the former Bedouin village of Dahab, 40 miles from Sharm El Sheikh.

Dominated by a long strip of shops, bars and restaurants, there's still no way to avoid the 'hard sell' typical of Egypt, but the overall atmosphere of the town is hippy rather than commercial.

Bedouin-style cafe and bars, where you sit on cushions sipping a drink and looking out to sea, are hard to beat after a day in the sea. Saying that, guests of Le Meridien are genuinely hard-pressed to find a reason to leave their hotel. On a long curve of land overlooking the sea away from the town, the complex boasts a PADI National Geographic dive centre, windsurf centre, kids' club, fitness centre, tennis courts, three restaurants, five pools, a spa, as well as a beautiful beach.

## FACT FILE: EGYPT

<b>Time difference</b>	+Two hours (GMT)
<b>Capital</b>	Cairo
<b>Language</b>	Standard Arabic
<b>Population</b>	77,500,000
<b>Currency</b>	Egyptian pound
<b>Religion</b>	Muslim

Sarah O'Meara travelled to Le Meridien Dahab Resort, pictured below, with Tropical Sky Scuba Diving, which offers seven nights' half-board breaks from £759 in June, including flights ex-Gatwick, transfers, taxes and surcharges.

Package includes return flights ex-Gatwick with Thomson, transfers, taxes and surcharges.

Reservations: 0870 907 9605 and [www.holidays4scubadiving.co.uk](http://www.holidays4scubadiving.co.uk)



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**FANCY A CUDDLE?** Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326 **1**

**COULD I BE THE ONE?** Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835 **1**

**HORSES FOR COURSES...** Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 **1**

**HAPPY DAYS!** Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **1**

**A FAIRYTALE ENDING!** Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **1**

**STARRY NIGHTS** Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair, enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378

**FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...** Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453030 **1**

**SEALED WITH A KISS** Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **1**

**GROW OLD WITH ME** Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164 **1**

**SEIZE THE DAY** Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428686 **1**

**LOVE TO LOVE YOU** Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

**HISTORIC MEETING?** Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **1**

**CUTE AS CAN BE** Cute single mum, 37, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 **1**

**MEND A BROKEN HEART** Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 **1**

## AN AFRICAN DIAMOND

38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, watching films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676 **1**

**DON'T LET ME DOWN** Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 **1**

**FAMILY ORIENTATED** Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034 **1**

**EASY TO LOVE** Lovely African female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968 **1**



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**FROM ME TO YOU** Lonely and bored single professional Asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925 **1**

**SHOW ME HEAVEN** Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, W/LTM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 **1**

**CALL ME** Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and W/LTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481 **1**

**TAKE A LITTLE TIME** Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 **1**

**TLC ON OFFER** Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, W/LTM like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271 **1**

**FOR A RELATIONSHIP?** Shy but confident once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 **1**

**A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE** Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys the theatre, music and eating out, W/LTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1**

**ANOTHER CHAPTER** Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037 **1**

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## DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving male, 5ft9+. Box 461129 **1**

**LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL** Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 **1**

**SHOW ME LOVE** Active sporty female, 43, enjoys the usual things in life, looking for someone genuine and honest, initially for friendship but then who knows? Tunbridge Wells. Box 868335 **1**

**STAY TRUE** Attractive, curvy, single mum, size 18, 44, kind, genuine, 5'5", loyal, loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 461830 **1**

**HOW YOU DOING?** Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 **1**

**GENUINE REPLIES ONLY** Bubbly female, 44, brunette, 165, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **1**

**ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL** Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 **1**

**TAKE IT EASY** Maidstone female, 47, looking for someone just for initial company and friendship. Many interests including gardening, cooking and shopping. Box 464973 **1**

**YOUNG AT HEART** Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113 **1**

**MY PRINCE?** Dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armor! East Sussex area. Box 872961 **1**

**NORMAL GAL** Female, 48, divorced, happy, looking for the one, friendship, laughter, looking for smart, genuine, kind tall honest man, age under 50 is all I ask. Maidstone. Box 865380 **1**

**ETERNALLY YOURS** Easygoing single mum, likes most things in life: country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build, W/LTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 **1**

**ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?** Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 **1**

**HELP ME OPEN UP** Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 **1**

**STIMULATING COMPANY** Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, W/LTM nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829 **1**

**MAKE IT ENJOYABLE** Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 **1**

**ANY TAKERS?** Divorced single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557 **1**

**HERE AND NOW** Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 **1**

**JUST IMAGINE** Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 835562 **1**

**THE RIGHT FIT** Big lady (51), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862885 **1**

**AWAY WE GO** Cranky young-at-heart lady, 52, 5ft10, enjoys simple pleasures...dancing, walks, people, attempting art and poetry, W/LTM new male friends for socialising, laughter and moving on. Box 870417 **1**

**HIT THE JACKPOT** Good-looking female, 50, looking for a kind, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship and romance. Box 878216 **1**

**CARING & PROFESSIONAL** Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100 **1**

**LOVELY BUBBLY** Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 **1**

**IT COULD BE US** Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464001 **1**

**WOULD LIKE TO BE HAPPY** Looking for someone who enjoys the simple things in life; wind and rain in my face, 53, red hair, warm holidays love mowing the lawn. Box 860558 **1**

**A HIGHER LOVE** Looking for that special person, I'm a genuine lady, 54 but don't feel it! I'd like to meet someone to love and care for. Canterbury. Box 857551 **1**

**YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...** Young-looking, hard-working lady, 54, enjoys the country-side, I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 863410 **1**

**COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE** Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, W/LTM similar loving male. Box 443642 **1**

**DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?** Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 **1**

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## LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **1**

**SMART MOVE** Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 **1**

**MAKE A NEW FRIEND** Fun-loving lady, 58, 5ft4, dark hair, single mum! Likes countryside walks, reading, cooking and easy nights in, seeks similar male. Folkestone. Box 460420 **1**

**NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED** Young-looking 60yr old lady from Gillingham, looking for a male for company and good times. I love animals and dining out. Box 463495 **1**

**LOTS OF HUGS** Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build, Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002 **1**

**PISCES OR CAPRICORN?** Star-struck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea; W/LTM tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240 **1**

**WALKS ALONG THE COAST** Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 **1**

**MUSIC TO MY EARS** Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for a slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 **1**

**BE YOURSELF** Outgoing lady, 46, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760 **1**

**BRIGHTENING UP** Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more, W/LTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214 **1**

**THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE** 59yr old young-at-heart, loving woman, I am hoping to meet a kind-spirited person who loves animals, going for walks and the romantic side of life. Box 900143 **1**

**SIMPLE PLEASURES** Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build, I love dancing, walking by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 459467 **1**

**LOVE ME DO** Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082 **1**

**SOMEBODY TO LAUGH WITH...** Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382 **1**

**LET'S FALL IN LOVE** Lovely female, 65, 5ft2, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763 **1**

**Women seeking women**  
**TRUE ROMANCE** Fun loving lady, honest, sincere and trust-worthy 41yrs old and looking for fun, maybe romance with an honest, sincere woman. I like nights in/out etc. Whitstable. Box 464494 **1**

**GIRL TO GIRL** Looking for a female to have some fun with. I'm a 47yr old woman, brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, GSOH and I'm friendly, Margate area. Box 859781 **1**

**FOLLOW YOUR HEART** Quiet sincere lady, 55, animal lover, likes history, reading, gardening and countryside, seeks lady with similar interests. Rochester. Box 465922 **1**



## MEN seeking women

**EASILY FINDING IN FOLKESTONE** Friendly, genuine fun loving male, 27, dark hair, medium build, I love clubbing, cinema, and travelling. Would love to hear from you. Kent. Box 859052 **1**

**GIVE IT A WHIRL** Single dad, 34, 6ft, stocky, gosh, seeking a fun and caring single lady for true romance. Maidstone. Box 462509 **1**

**A GOOD LAUGH** Single dad, 34, 6ft, brown hair, blue eyes, looking for a female to share days out, nights out and good times with. Maidstone. Box 462510 **1**

**IS THERE AN OUT THERE FOR ME?** Nice guy, 33, 5ft9, slim, likes bike rides and pubs, looking for a nice female for a good relationship. Sittingbourne. Box 465279 **1**

**ALL LIFE HAS TO OFFER** Attractive, respectable British Asian male, 35, black hair, golden skin, muscular build, enjoys conversations, cooking, walks, picnics, DIY seeks a slim, sensible, fun woman. Maidstone. Box 462597 **1**

**TAKE THE PLUNGE** Slim, sporty male, 35, 6ft, blue eyes, blonde hair, likes sports, football, pubs, clubs, romantic night in/out, seeking a caring lady for a life. Aylesford. Box 460136 **1**

**BOTTLE OF WINE** Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft8, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 **1**

**IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?** Fit, active male, I'm single, good looking, 40yrs old. I like cinema, walks, and eating in and out. Ashford area. Box 465487 **1**

**LET ME LOVE YOU** Happy-go-lucky male, 36, 6'2", GSOH, large build, blue eyes/brown hair, likes socialising, relaxing weekends, loves children; seeks caring, honest female for TLC and love. Box 384903 **1**

**THE GOOD LIFE** Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together with the right woman. Box 858113 **1**

**BURSTING WITH LOVE** Shy 39 year old man, caring with big heart, looking for that someone to share my life with, into sport, films and having fun. Margate. Box 859647 **1**

**MAKE ME LAUGH** Hard working male, 39, kind, GSOH, intelligent, modest! Likes cooking, the countryside & nights out, seeks fun female for relationship. Maidstone. Box 464266 **1**

**FISHING & CAMPING!** Fun-loving male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333 **1**

**LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE!** Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450317 **1**

**RECIPE FOR ROMANCE** Brighton based man, 41, 5ft10, slim build, shaved head, looking for fun loving lady to share good times, enjoys cooking, reading and walking. Box 465037 **1**

**HOW ABOUT TODAY?** Looking for love and relationship with nice, genuine woman. I'm male, 42, 5ft8, brown hair/blue eyes, enjoys cycling, films, eating in and out. Kent. Box 463958 **1**

**LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR** Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 443750 **1**

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## BIG ATTRACTIVE GUY

Gillingham male, 43, 6ft2, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soul-mate! Box 465158 **1**

**A SUMMER WALK** Loving, caring and reliable, single male, 45, 5ft6, dark hair/blue eyes, I'm seeking a relationship with loving lady 34-56. I like holidays, theatre, music etc. Ashford. Box 465408 **1**

**ROMANTIC TYPE** Caring, romantic and loyal gent, 45yrs young, 5ft11, slim build, blue eyes/brown hair, I like walks, music, animals and pubs. Hastings/Bexhill/Eastbourne areas. Box 465613 **1**

**ALONG THE SHORE** Romantic male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 34-56. Ashford. Box 465817 **1**

**BE MINE** Slim male, 44, 5'11", dark hair and eyes, likes going out, walks, looking for a single, honest and loving lady, 25-50, who is exotic. Maidstone. Box 460591 **1**

**COME AND GET ME!** Ashford male, 44, dark hair and blue eyes, 5ft6, slim, loving, easygoing, loves holidays, theatre, beach walks, W/LTM loving genuine lady for potential LTR. Box 460807 **1**

**WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD** Sincere guy, 45, 6ft, slim, likes clubs, pubs, bowling, cinema, meals out, looking for a single female for a stable relationship. Gillingham. Box 462529 **1**

**2 SEATS PLEASE** Richard here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Box 859273 **1**

**BIG DEAL IN DEAL WARM** Tactile male, 45, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, easy nights in, seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967 **1**

**LOOKING FOR MY LADY** Active guy, young 47, professional, likes the theatre, the countryside and photography, loves travelling, hoping to meet a mature warm hearted lady for life-long romance. Sittingbourne. Box 860916 **1**

**GAINING CONFIDENCE** 47yr old chap, Brighton based, have my own company and I enjoy most things in life. Seeks a fresh start with a genuine local lady. Box 463623 **1**

**GET HAPPY** Easygoing guy with GSOH, 46, not bad looking, looking for someone to enjoy friendship, romance and maybe something more. Eastbourne. Box 461443 **1**

**TAKE MY HAND** Genuine, honest man, 4



# yourmedwaytimeout

## YOUR TV REVIEW



**EXPERIENCE:** Liberal Democrat Mark Oaten was one of the politicians to try life on the other side

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

### TOWER BLOCK OF COMMONS Channel 4, 9pm, Monday

ANY show which pits high-profile politicians with some of the least well-off in society is bound to be must-watch television.

It's the car-crash compulsiveness of it all, as we eagerly anticipate our elected officials tripping up over what they find in some of Britain's worst council estates, bringing the reality sharply home. But to their credit, the cross-selection of MPs who signed up to live with their less well-heeled hosts seemed to adapt and learnt a great deal in this four-part series.

Among those who dared to venture out of Westminster was Lib Dem MP Mark Oaten, who arguably had the most to gain in his attempt to rehabilitate his political career.

Jeering lads mocked him about his cavorting with a male prostitute, the scandal which dashed his party leadership hopes. Visibly shaken, he was later seen lying face down, with his host Cathy pitying him and saying how much the revelations still have an

effect on him – a remarkable turning of the tables.

But he later proved his worth by helping a mum on benefits keep to her weekly shopping budget and started a campaign to get the dreary grey edifice of a tower torn down.

Austin Mitchell was the Labour representative, a 75-year-old voted into office by the working man but now finding himself strangely out of his comfort zone. The producers even offered him the use of a whole council flat in Hull, sharing with his wife Linda and sparing him the joylessness of sleeping on someone else's couch.

No sooner had they moved than they started to redecorate the place. Mr Mitchell, who was recently forced to pay back £10,000 in expenses, had to cook for and feed three children and visited a methadone dispensary with a recovering heroin addict.

He later briefly abandoned the experiment to enjoy a dinner party with friends nearby, only to return humbled and host his own.

Out of the parliamentarians, the one who seemed furthest removed from his new, unfamiliar environment was Tory man Tim Laughton. He was sent to the Newtown estate in Birmingham.

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 19)

IT MAY be impossible to break out of a boring rut. Instead of cursing your bad fortune, try focusing on the positive aspects. At least there is an element of security involved. Although you may have to operate by yourself, that's better than answering to a capricious supervisor.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



**TAURUS** (Apr 21-May 21)

WORK can be very dispiriting, thanks to an oppressive supervisor who seems to think the entire work force is incapable of handling their responsibilities. For a capable person like you, this is really insulting. Fortunately, some changes are occurring on the home front.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



**LEO** (Jul 24-Aug 23)

IT'S hard to hear harsh criticism, but if you don't acknowledge the truth of what's being said you'll never improve. Swallow your pride and take your critic's advice. Whether this means getting more training you've got learn how to walk before you can run.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



**SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU'RE doubtful if someone can change. Making your feelings known will only doom them to failure. Keep your feelings to yourself. They have more potential than you realise. By backing off and giving them space, you'll allow this neighbour, friend or colleague to speak out.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



**PISCES** (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU may feel alienated from your loved ones. They all seem to think you don't have a firm grip on reality. Maybe that's true; you've always been something of a dreamer, but you needn't be ashamed of your fanciful ways, so long as they are not creating trouble for others.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531753



**GEMINI** (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU can't ignore your unhappiness any longer. Although your desire to serve others has been admirable, it has been of great cost to you. You're too vivacious to resign yourself to a life of misery. Stop weighing down your schedule with non-stop work and start making time for fun.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



**VIRGO** (Aug 24-Sep 23)

BEING too conservative with finances is depriving yourself of pleasure. Stop acting as if it is a sin to enjoy yourself. Splurging on a new outfit, gadget or piece of jewellery may seem frivolous at first, but eventually, you'll realise how starved you've been for luxury.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 21)

SOME people don't think you have got what it takes to manage your money responsibly. This is your chance to prove them wrong. Although you've never cared much about wealth in the past, that doesn't mean you are doomed to live on a shoestring budget.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr 20)

A CLOSE relationship is showing signs of strain, mainly because of work. One or both of you is spending too much time at the office. Furthermore, the strains of professional life are beginning to seep into your domestic sphere. You need to formulate a strategy to have more fun.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



**CANCER** (Jun 23-Jul 23)

SADNESS over your past may inhibit you from advancing your career. Contrary to what certain family members might think, you're an extremely talented person. Now you're more mature, you don't need their approval. However, it may be necessary to slightly alter your goals.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



**LIBRA** (Sep 24-Oct 23)

ADOPTING a bossy attitude won't go down too well at home. Your family life is undergoing some radical changes, and the members of your clan deserve a say in what happens. This means you'll have to put some of your plans on hold for the sake of the group.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20)

IS SOMEONE in a position of power intimidated by your talent and standing in your way of advancement? It's possible you will have to find another situation in order to fulfil your potential. Although you hate leaving your present job, you have to admit you've hit a glass ceiling.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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## JERSEY HOLIDAYS



With its unspoiled landscape and unique blend of British and French influences, Jersey really is a place where you can get away from it all.

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Villa Isis BB	£259	£279	£324	£349	£349
Mayfair*	£399	£449	£489	£529	£519
Norfolk BB	£279	£319	£349	£369	£379

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\*Free HB at the Mayfair Hotel, selected dates, ask for details

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Please quote ref MSE10 to ensure you are quoted lowest available prices. Prices are subject to change and availability and can only be confirmed at time of booking.



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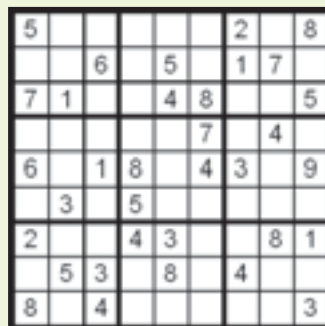
## CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No125

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

### EASY



### MEDIUM



### HARD



### CRYPTIC CLUES

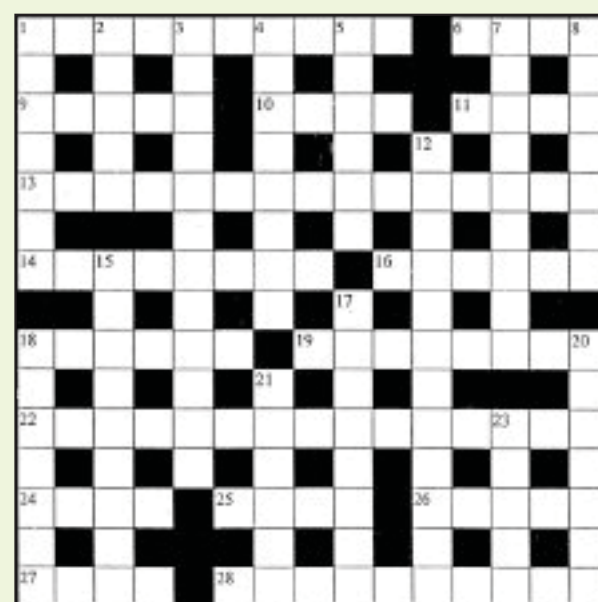
#### ACROSS

- 1 Met laddies coming from Arabian Peninsula area (6,4)
- 6 One with less than half quantity of water (4)
- 9 Many a bird call from another bird (5)
- 10 Most of potato or some macaroni (4)
- 11 Some brand-new currency (4)
- 13 Lied about gamble, it's useless wondering (4,11)
- 14 Annual? (8)
- 16 Do me a favour (6)
- 18 It is taken to prevent ill-feeling (6)
- 19 Stranded, having done a job in the kitchen (6-2)
- 22 June's home perhaps (6,9)
- 24 Right-sounding ceremonial act (4)
- 25 Jack with duo performing self-defence (4)
- 26 Reducing expenditure sharply means dropping members from team (5)
- 27 Old priest very long time going round the bend (4)
- 28 Tough at the top (4-6)

#### DOWN

- 1 Preserve mother provided in my clutches (7)
- 2 Of nobleman Claud maybe (5)
- 3 One least likely to get the lot (6,6)
- 4 Pert note about warehouse (8)
- 5 Subscription owing put down (6)
- 7 Fit to do the job with reservations (9)
- 8 Ronald entered portion designed to be firm when eaten (2,5)
- 12 Travelling, try Beach Road to find energy source (12)
- 15 A student with two graduates three times at school (4,5)
- 17 Father's weapon might be required for entry (8)
- 18 Book the substitute (7)
- 20 Moved sideways to first place as promised! (7)
- 21 Upsetting experience in Sumatra strangely headed off (6)
- 23 Aquatic larva Diana cultivated (5)

### SCRIBBLE HERE



### QUICK CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 1 Percussion instrument (10)
- 6 Desist (4)
- 9 Tough (anag.) (5)
- 10 Frolic (4)
- 11 Eyelid sore (4)
- 13 No longer having publicity (2,3,10)
- 14 Luminous beetle (8)
- 16 the Divine (2,4)
- 18 Put before (6)
- 19 Ignorant (8)
- 22 MSc (6,2,7)
- 24 Percolate (4)
- 25 50% (4)
- 26 Go (5)
- 27 Flank (4)
- 28 Bored with life (5-5)

#### DOWN

- 1 Aware (7)
- 2 Taut (5)
- 3 Correspondent (6-6)
- 4 Behind (8)
- 5 Destroyed (6)
- 7 Slightly mad (2,3,4)
- 8 Senator (anag.) (7)
- 12 Relative (7-2,3)
- 15 Larger than usual (9)
- 17 Heavenly (8)
- 18 Pretentious (7)
- 20 Landscape (7)
- 21 Principality (6)
- 23 Antelope (5)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No124

#### EASY



#### MEDIUM



#### HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

### CRYPTIC SOLUTION No124

**ACROSS:** 1 Music 4 Emblazon 8 Infrastructure 10 Schematic 11 Rodeo 12 Navy 13 Jingoist 17 Vanquish 18 Kent 22 Racer 24 Uncertain 25 Growth industry 26 Cul-de-sac 27 Thyme. **DOWN:** 1 Meissen 2 Safe haven 3 Clammy 4 Entity 5 Blue-chip 6 Alter ego 7 Oared 9 Wont 14 Inexactly 15 Burrowed 16 As much as 17 Very 19 Tintype 20 Scenic 21 Proust 23 Corfu.

### QUICK SOLUTION No125

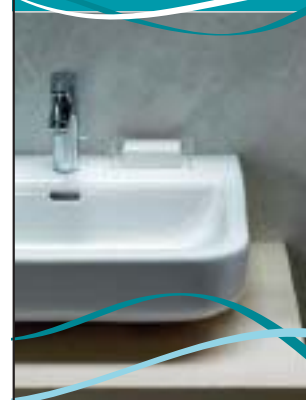
Pompos 20 Scenery 21 Monaco 22 Blissful 18 Brother-in-law 15 Oversized 17 Treason 12 Knowing 2 Tight 3 Letter-writer 4 Derriere 5 Unmade 7 Up the pole 8 Treason 12 Leave 27 Side 28 World-weary. **DOWN:** 1 Clockwork 16 St. John 18 Prelix 19 Clueless 22 Master of Science 24 Ooze 25 Half 26 Ramp 11 She 13 In the wilderness 14



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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Eco show homes offer glimpse of the future

UP TO £60 million has been earmarked by the Government to finance the building of 600 eco show homes.

Housing minister John Healey said funds would be allocated to the country's biggest ever green home-building programme across four locations.

It is intended to provide green living for 2,000 people, with almost a third of the homes to be affordable.



As part of the schemes, new energy projects will be set up so residents take their energy from natural sources, and a low-carbon sixth form will be developed for schools.

Mr Healey said: "This is the start of the country's biggest ever eco home building programme. As a first step, 600 will be built in these four areas – most will be for sale but some will be permanent show homes.

"By 2016 there will be 10,000 eco homes in these four pioneering areas.

"This means people will be able to experience green living for themselves and see how it can change their lives and save money."

### Retro-fitting efficiency trend 'is irreversible'

CLIMATE Change Capital, the low carbon asset manager, has completed the fundraising for its first fund with £69 million of equity.

The Climate Change Property Fund focuses on retro-fitting buildings in cities achieve improved sustainability and reduce operating costs.

The fund is 40 per cent invested with existing assets. Further investments are under consideration.

"Investors are becoming increasingly aware of how the future regulatory landscape will look and are acting accordingly," said Tim Mockett, joint founder partner of the fund.

"The trend to more energy efficient buildings, driven by legislation and the wishes of occupiers and investors, is irreversible."



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# Inconvenient truth for opponents is that 'HIPs are good for market'

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Association of Home Information Pack Providers (AHIPP) has claimed that Home Information Packs (HIPs) are benefiting the housing market.

The Government introduced HIPs with the aim of speeding up the home buying and selling process.

However, the controversial packs have been branded a waste of time by critics and can cost between £200 and £400.

HIPs were introduced in August 2007 and many believe they have contributed to the fall in house prices, with estate agents frequently calling on the Government to review the packs.

However, a report from Connells Survey and Valuation has led AHIPP, the body that represents HIP companies, to claim HIPs have not hindered the housing market.

#### Tireless

Ross Bowen, managing director of Connells Survey and Valuation, said there was nine per cent more valuations in January compared with the same month last year.

Mr Bowen said it was the fifth month in a row monthly valuations activity was higher than that of the same month in the previous year.

Mike Ockenden, director general of AHIPP, said: "the report clearly negates claims that the property market is in any way adversely affected by HIPs."

He added: "We will work tirelessly in the coming months to ensure the truth about HIPs and their role in the buying and selling



**HOUSING BOON:** Supporters say statistics prove HIPs are reducing the stress and cost of buying and selling

process is getting to the people that count – the British electorate."

Shadow housing minister Grant Shapps has been negative about the packs and blamed them for slowing the property market.

If the Conservative party wins the next general election, it has pledged to scrap the packs within weeks of coming to power.

Many industry bodies, in particular the National Association of Estate Agents which has been against the packs since day one, have claimed they were a "failure" and "costly and unnecessary".

Mr Ockenden said: "Grant Shapps has consistently blamed HIPs for stifling the property market but as yet another set of statistics show, this simply isn't the case.

In reality, HIPs have enabled buyers and sellers to complete on the purchase and sale of properties more quickly, with greater assurance and less stress and cost.

"Many of our members report that home sales complete routinely within 30 days when an 'exchange ready' HIP is used and it is about time that this message rather than political spin is put in the public domain."

## Stamp duty structural change welcomed

THE Government has published a consultation document – Investment in the UK Private Rented Sector – which indicates that stamp duty concessions could be introduced to encourage institutional investors to become landlords.

Ministers see private rental accommodation as playing "a critical role within the housing system" and are also looking at the possibility of using real estate investment trusts (cur-

rently the domain of commercial property investors) to encourage investment by big players. Aviva and Legal & General are already understood to be interested in expanding into the private rented sector and the Homes and Communities Agency is known to be seeking out other institutional investors for large-scale projects.

Meanwhile, the Association of Residential Letting Agents has welcomed the consulta-

tion. Spokesman Ian Potter said: "We have long been campaigning for a change in stamp duty as it has a prohibitive impact on the private rented sector, so are pleased the Government is taking heed of our recommendations.

"A change to the structure of stamp duty would encourage vital investment into bulk portfolios, helping a part of the housing sector that is going to be pivotal to that sector's recovery."

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• UTILITY ROOM  
• CLOAKROOM  
• REFITTED BATHROOM  
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Guide price £325,000 - £345,000

REF: Prestige\_60095S



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• ENTRANCE HALL  
• CLOAKROOM & UTILITY ROOM  
• LOUNGE & SEPARATE DINING ROOM

• KITCHEN / BREAKFAST  
• AMPLE OFF ROAD PARKING  
• INTEGRAL GARAGE  
• CLOSE TO M2 / M20 MOTORWAY LINKS

£350,000

REF: Prestige\_60073S



**Walderslade**  
• 5 BED DETACHED HOME  
• 2 BED DETACHED ANNEX  
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS  
• EN-SUITE TO MASTER

• SUN TERRACE  
• UTILITY ROOM  
• APPROX 20FT DRIVEWAY  
• DETACHED GARAGE

£619,995

REF: Prestige\_59894S



**Rochester**  
• 17TH CENTURY PERIOD HOME  
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS  
• 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS  
• ATTIC / CELLAR

• ORIGINAL FEATURES  
• EXPOSED BEAMS / SASH WINDOWS  
• COURT YARD GARDEN  
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION

£275,000

REF: Prestige\_60097S



**Chatham**  
• 5 BEDROOM HOME  
• DETACHED  
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS  
• SUITABLE FOR OFFICE / HOME WORKING

• EN-SUITE AND DRESSING ROOM TO MASTER  
• DETACHED GARAGE  
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• INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

£379,995

REF: Prestige\_60048S



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• LOUNGE / DINING ROOM  
• GROUND FLOOR CLOAKROOM  
• STUDY / PLAYROOM / UTILITY ROOM

• FAMILY BATHROOM  
• CONSERVATORY  
• ESTABLISHED REAR GARDENS  
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION

OIEO £475,000

REF: Prestige\_59910S



**Walderslade**  
• EXECUTIVE 4 BED DET HOME  
• LOUNGE & DINING ROOM  
• 16FT KITCHEN / BREAKFAST ROOM  
• STUDY & UTILITY ROOM

• EN-SUITE / DRESSING AREA  
• DOUBLE GARAGE & GRP  
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION  
• VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

£525,000

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• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS



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• IDEAL FOR STUDENTS

REF: inst-311



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• LOUNGE  
• DINER



**£160,000**

• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN  
• GARAGE  
• FLAT PLOT  
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Walderslade 601925



**Gillingham**  
• SEMI DETACHED CHALET BUNGALOW  
• 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS  
• LOUNGE / DINER  
• KITCHEN / BREAKFAST ROOM



**Guide Price 220,000 £240,000**

• ENSUITE & DRESSING AREA  
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• CLOSE TO M2 / M20  
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

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• NEWLY BUILT TOWN HOUSES  
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• LOUNGE / DINING AREA  
• INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

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**Walderslade**  
• TERRACED HOME  
• 3 BEDROOMS  
• LOUNGE / DINER  
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN



**Guide Price 170,000 £175,000**

• MODERN FITTED BATHROOM  
• SEPARATE SHOWER CUBICLE  
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN  
• PARKING TO THE FRONT

REF: Walderslade 601435



**Bellgrove Court** **TO LET £995pcm**

• Phone/Internet Point  
• No Pets Allowed  
• Off road parking  
• No Smokers

REF: inst-335



**Sittingbourne**  
• NMID TERRACE HOME  
• 3 BEDROOMS  
• LOUNGE  
• KITCHEN DINER



**Guide Price 110,000 - £130,000**

• PORCH  
• OVERLOOKS GREEN  
• CUL DE SAC POSITON  
• NO CHAIN

REF: Rainham 600455



**Rainham**  
• TERRACED HOME  
• 3 BEDROOMS  
• ENTRANCE HALL  
• KITCHEN-DINER



**£129,995**

• LOUNGE  
• FAMILY BATHROOM  
• CLOSE TO MAINLINE TRAIN STATION  
• NO CHAIN

REF: Rainham 601165



**Maidstone** **£750pcm**

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• LOUNGE WITH BALCONY  
• EN-SUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM

REF: inst-338



**Chatham**  
• SEMI DETACHED HOME  
• 3 BEDROOMS  
• LOUNGE  
• DINING ROOM



**£189,995**

• CONSERVATORY  
• DOWNSTAIRS CLOAKROOM  
• FRONT AND REAR GARDENS  
• GARAGE TO REAR

REF: Walderslade 604845



**Gillingham**  
• TERRACED HOME  
• 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS  
• EXTENDED LOUNGE / DINER  
• CONSERVATORY



**Guide Price £170,000 - £185,000**

• FAMILY BATHROOM  
• GARAGE AND DRIVE  
• GOOD SIZE GARDEN  
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Rainham 601335



**Chatham** **TO LET £625pcm**

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• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS  
• BATHROOM WITH WHITE SUITE  
• GARAGE TO REAR

REF: inst-322



**nr Rochester**  
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• LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINER  
• CONSERVATORY  
• UTILITY ROOM



**£485,000**

• CLOAKROOM  
• FAMILY BATHROOM  
• SEPARATE SHOWER ROOM  
• GARDEN & GARAGE

REF: Walderslade 599125



**Wigmore**  
• SEMI DETACHED HOME  
• 3 BEDROOMS  
• KITCHEN / DINER  
• LOUNGE



**Guide Price 210,000 - £225,000**

• EXTENDED TO REAR  
• SPACIOUS LIVING ACCOMMODATION  
• GARAGE  
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION

REF: Rainham 601485



**Sittingbourne** **TO LET £695pcm**

• 1 BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW  
• FITTED KITCHEN  
• BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH  
• RURAL LOCATION

REF: inst-299





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**Sittingbourne**  
• LINK DETACHED HOME  
• 3 BEDROOMS  
• CLOAKROOM  
• LOUNGE



**Guide Price 209,995 - £213,000**  
• DINING ROOM  
• KITCHEN OVER LOOKING GARDEN  
• LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN  
• DRIVE LEADING TO GARAGE

REF: Rainham\_61131S



**Gillingham**  
• TERRACE HOME  
• 2 BEDROOMS  
• APPROX 3 YRS OLD  
• EN SUITE



**Guide Price £235,000 - £245,000**  
• CLOAKROOM  
• SEMI RURAL LOCATION  
• GATED ENTRANCE  
• PARTIAL RIVER VIEWS

REF: Rainham\_60174S



**Rainham TO LET £895pcm**  
• 3 BED SEMI DETACHED  
• LOUNGE / DINER WITH OAK FLOORING  
• BATHROOM & SEPARATE SHOWER ROOM  
• GARAGE EN-BLOC

REF: inst-307



**Chatham**  
• SEMI DETACHED HOME  
• 2 BEDROOMS  
• 1 RECEPTION ROOM  
• SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION



**£135,000**  
• NO CHAIN  
• DRIVEWAY TO THE FRONT  
• CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE  
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Walderslade\_60175S



**Gillingham**  
• LINK DETACHED HOME  
• 4 BEDROOMS  
• ENTRANCE HALL  
• KITCHEN



**£249,995**  
• DINING ROOM  
• FAMILY BATHROOM  
• NO CHAIN  
• DRIVEWAY LEADING TO GARAGE

REF: Rainham\_60150S



**Gillingham TO LET £695pcm**  
• 3 BEDROOM TERRACED HOME  
• LOUNGE / KITCHEN / DINER  
• BATHROOM WITH SHOWER OVER BATH  
• FRONT & REAR GARDENS

REF: inst-337



**Gillingham**  
• TERRACED HOME  
• 3 BEDROOMS  
• ENTRANCE HALL  
• DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM



**Guide Price 145,000 £155,000**  
• OPEN PLAN LOUNGE / DINER  
• KITCHEN  
• EXTENDED TO REAR  
• DOUBLE GARAGE

REF: Rainham\_60337S



**Strood**  
• SEMI DETACHED HOME  
• 4 BEDROOMS  
• LOUNGE / DINER  
• MODERN KITCHEN



**£260,000**  
• DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM  
• UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM  
• DRIVEWAY  
• CUL-DE SAC POSITION

REF: Walderslade\_60110S



**Rainham £500pcm**  
• 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT  
• KITCHEN / LOUNGE  
• BATHROOM WITH WHITE SUITE  
• POPULAR LOCATION

REF: inst-318



**Chatham**  
• LINKED DETACHED HOME  
• 4 BEDROOMS  
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM  
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS



**£284,995**  
• DOWNSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM  
• MODERN FITTED BATHROOM  
• DRIVEWAY FOR 2 CARS  
• NO FORWARD CHAIN

REF: Walderslade\_61164S



**Walderslade**  
• END OF TERRACE HOME  
• 3 BEDROOMS  
• SUITABLE FOR GROWING FAMILY  
• GOOD SIZED ACCOMMODATION



**£142,500**  
• MODERN KITCHEN  
• CLOSE TO M2 / M20  
• CLOSE TO WALDESLADE VILLAGE  
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Walderslade\_60140S



**Gillingham £110,000**  
• 2 BEDROOM MAISONETTE  
• IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYER  
• LOUNGE / KITCHEN  
• OWN GARDEN / NO CHAIN

REF: Rainham\_62292S



**Chatham**  
• SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW  
• 2 BEDROOMS  
• LOUNGE  
• DINER



**£160,000**  
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN  
• GARAGE  
• FLAT PLOT  
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Walderslade\_60192S



**Gillingham**  
• END OF TERRACE HOME  
• 3 BEDROOMS  
• KITCHEN  
• DINER



**OIEO £165,000**  
• PLANNING TO EXTEND TO THE SIDE  
• OFF ROAD PARKING  
• POPULAR LOCATION  
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Rainham\_61597S



**Rainham £229,995**  
• 3 BED SEMI DETACHED  
• LOUNGE / DINER / KITCHEN  
• CONSERVATORY  
• GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY

REF: Rainham\_60349S



**Chatham**  
• STUDIO APARTMENT  
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN  
• BATHROOM WITH WHITE SUITE  
• GAS CENTRAL HEATING



**£72,500**  
• PARKING TO REAR  
• CLOSE TO SHOPS  
• REALISTICALLY PRICED  
• IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS

REF: Walderslade\_60988S



**Chatham**  
• ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT  
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN  
• LOUNGE / DINER  
• BATHROOM



**£85,000**  
• PARKING SPACE  
• NO CHAIN  
• IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS  
• CLOSE TO M2 / M20

REF: Walderslade\_61049S



**Maidstone OIEO £130,000**  
• 2 BED CONVERSION APARTMENT  
• KITCHEN / BREAKFAST ROOM  
• TOWN CENTRE  
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN

REF: Walderslade\_61150S



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**Chatham | £349,995**

- Stunning home built-in 1885, versatile 5 beds
- Study, 2 bathrooms, second kitchen
- Approx. 200ft rear garden, off road parking

**CHATHAM OFFICE | 01634 841243**



**Newington | Price Range £274,000-£305,000**

- Extended 4/5 bedroom detached
- kitchen, breakfast room, dining room,
- lounge, study, garage & driveway

**RAINHAM OFFICE | 01634 373531**



**Walderslade Woods | Price Range £240,000-£260,000**

- Four bedroom detached family home,
- cloakroom and conservatory,
- garage and off road parking

**WALDESLADE OFFICE | 01634 865661**



**Walderslade | Price Range £225,000-£245,000**

- 4 bedroom detached house
- Double garage
- 2 reception rooms

**WALDESLADE OFFICE | 01634 865661**

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- Downstairs Cloakroom, Parking
- Cul De Sac Position

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**Borstal | Price Range: £175,000-£195,000**

- Three bedroom semi-detached house
- There are three reception rooms
- There is a block paved driveway

**ROCHESTER OFFICE | 01634 830925**



**Gillingham | Price Range: £170,000-£190,000**

- 4/5 Bedrooms, 28ft Lounge/Diner
- 18ft Modern Fitted Kitchen, Cellar/Bar
- Modern Bathroom & Double Glazing

**LOWER GILLINGHAM OFFICE | 01634 851191**



**Upper Gillingham | Price Range £160,000-£180,000**

- Three bedroom terrace family home,
- Two receptions, upstairs bathroom
- no chain allowing a speedy purchase

**UPPER GILLINGHAM OFFICE | 01634 281155**



**Strood | Price Range: £110,000-£130,000**

- 1 Bed House, Popular Residential Close
- Open Plan Living Area, Garden
- Garage to Side with Off Road Parking

**STROOD OFFICE | 01634 716597**



**Chatham: 01634 841243**

**Rainham: 01634 373531**

**Upper Gillingham: 01634 281155**

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#### Cuxton

- Four bedroom detached home
- ensuite to the master, kitchen/diner
- garden, study/bedroom five, utility

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#### Gillingham

- Four bedroom extended end of terrace
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- Close to Gillingham station & High street

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#### Strood

- NO FORWARD CHAIN.
- Two bedroom terraced home
- Lounge, good size kitchen & bathroom

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#### Rochester

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom. No Chain

#### £160,000 Freehold

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- Studio Apartment.
- Popular Edward Court Development.
- Double Glazing, Off Street Parking

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- 4 bedroom detached family home.
- Full of character features
- designed for modern living

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- Three bedroom town house
- bathroom, W.C
- off road parking, internal garage

#### £154,000

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#### Rochester

- Three bedroom terrace house.
- Two reception rooms.
- Ground floor bathroom

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#### Chatham

- Three bedroom duplex maisonette.
- Ground floor, Private rear garden
- Chain Free

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#### Gillingham

- One bedroom first floor flat
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**Strood**



**Offers in the region of £130,000**

Three bedroom terrace home with off road parking. Double glazing, fitted kitchen and two reception rooms.

**Strood**



**Offers in excess of £140,000**

Three bedroomed extended semi-detached, double glazing, central heating, fitted kitchen, off road parking.

**Strood**



**£179,995**

Three bedroomed extended semi-detached family home. Kitchen re-fitted shower room, cloakroom and driveway.

**Strood**



**Offers in the region of £220,000**

Bairstow Eves are pleased to offer this three bedroom detached bungalow which would benefit from modernisation.

**Strood**



**£232,000**

Three bedroom chalet style bungalow. Lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, ground floor bathroom and ensuite.

**Strood**



**Asking Price £249,995**

Four bedroom detached bungalow. 170ft rear garden. Potential to extend. Planning permission granted.

**Strood**



**Offers in excess of £295,000**

Five bedroom semi-detached home. This home has double glazing, central heating, utility room. Offered chain free.

**Strood**



**Offers in the region of £325,000**

Five Bedroom Detached house. Three Reception Rooms, en-suite to master, five bedrooms and kitchen/diner.

**Strood**



**Offers in excess of £365,000**

Spacious kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom and three reception rooms. en suite shower room and Juliet balcony.

**Strood**



**£449,995**

Executive four bedroom detached. lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, conservatory, bathroom.

[www.bairstoweves.co.uk](http://www.bairstoweves.co.uk)

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## MOTORS NEWS



### Second generation for VW Touareg is unveiled

VW has an all-new Touareg 4x4 due this summer and it is up to 200 kilos lighter and 20 per cent more fuel efficient than the current car.

No prices have been revealed yet, but VW will offer an out-and-out Escape version for buyers needing proper off-road performance and there will be a sporty hybrid, able to see off hot hatches while averaging in the mid-30s for mpg.

For a beefy SUV/4x4 it is also leaner and more stylish than it is currently.



### ix35 becomes first with new face of Hyundai

HYUNDAI'S forthcoming Tucson replacement, the ix35, launches a new design language and shows off a new hexagonal corporate grille.

The sleeker look is claimed to help aerodynamics and complement a new powertrain offering better fuel efficiency and lower CO2 emissions.

The Korean marque says this will attract would-be buyers of mainstream hatchbacks, MPVs and new crossovers like the Nissan Qashqai and Peugeot 3008.

The ix35 arrives in March, with pricing from around £14,000 – backed by the usual Hyundai five-year warranty.



### Audi's baby car gets an A1 for city car effort

AUDI is to close a gap in its model numbering system by launching a new A1.

The three-door compact will also break new ground by being a premium city car contender when order books open in May, priced from £13,000 and with standard spec including alloys, air con and electronic stability control.

The A1 will be an unusually sleek and sporty contender for this sector yet Audi claims it will still carry four people and their luggage, while offering both petrol and diesel powertrains.



**BLOCK-BUSTER:** Citroën contradicts the usual look for people carriers with its C3 Picasso, combining slippery edges and 4x4 styling with added 'bling' such as alloys and roof bars

# Citroën continues cubist cult with the C3 Picasso

## ROAD TEST CITROEN C3

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

but Citroën has shrewdly offered various acid colours – it has 'cult car' written all over it.

We borrowed a 95bhp 1.4-litre petrol model from Wilmoths Citroën at Park Wood, Maidstone, the most junior engine yet lively enough for the newcomer and quiet on the motorway.

A 120bhp 1.6-litre petrol unit is also in the mix, though Wilmoths' general sales manager Kelvin Clayton says the two 1.6-litre diesel options – 90bhp and 110bhp – dominate sales 70/30, despite a £1,100 premium.

There are three C3 Picasso trim levels: VT, VTR+ – the start point for air con as standard – and Exclusive. They all have typical Picasso versatility with split-fold/sliding rear seats.

The front passenger seat back also folds for extra load space and as a useful table cum tray for life on the road, while an upright rear end delivers one of the biggest boots in its sector.

There is also lots of stowage bins and space and the glassy cabin can be enhanced by a panoramic roof – something of a Picasso speciality.

Add this to a high driving position and minimal body roll in corners and you are inclined to forgive slightly vague steering.



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06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 10000 MILES.....	£10495
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### BMW

05 55 BMW 320 DIESEL ES 6 SPEED MANUAL ESTATE 5000 MILES ONLY.....	£13995
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### FIAT

06 56 FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 1242CC SDR AUTO PAS BLACK 16000 MILES.....	£5995
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### FUSION & FIESTA

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06 56 FORD FOCUS 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SEA GREY 12000 MILES.....	£7995
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06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£7995
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06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS ELECTRIC BLUE 7000 MILES.....	£5495

### TOYOTA

08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR ALLOYS BLACK 8000 MILES.....	£9495
07 57 YARIS 1-3 ZINC 3DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLACK UNDER 800 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS SILVER 6000 MILES.....	£8495
04 04 COROLLA 1-6 T SPIRIT 3 5DR AUTO AIR/C MET SILVER 24000 MILES.....	£6995
02 02 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 GLS AUTO PAS SILVER 22000 MILES.....	£5995

### NISSAN

08 08 NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 9000 MILES.....	£9495
08 08 NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5DR AUTO PAS BLADE SILVER 10000 MILES.....	£9495
08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR AUTO PAS BLADE SILVER 10000 MILES.....	£9495
08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES.....	£8995
08 08 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK MET 2000 MILES.....	£9995
08 08 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK MET 14000 MILES.....	£8995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES.....	£8995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 5000 MILES.....	£7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 5000 MILES.....	£7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 MILES.....	£7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SVE 3DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 23000 MILES.....	£6995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SVE 3DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 23000 MILES.....	£6995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 MILES.....	£6495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 5DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 18000 MILES.....	£6495
04 53 NISSAN TINO 1-8 SE 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER AIR/C 10000 MILES.....	£4995

### SKODA

08 58 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 MILES.....	£9495
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### MG ROVER

03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES.....	£2995
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### CHEVROLET

09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS SDR SILVER 900 MILES.....	£7995
08 08 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS SDR BLACK 6000 MILES.....	£6995
08 08 CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX 5DR AUTO PAS POLY SILVER 10000 MILES.....	£6495
08 08 CHEVROLET KALOS 1-4 SX 5DR AUTO PAS POLY METALLIC 10000 MILES.....	£6495
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 10000 MILES.....	£4995
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£4995
06 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS SDR SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS SDR SILVER 15000 MILES.....	£5995
06 56 KALOS 1-4 SX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE METALLIC 36000 MILES.....	£4995
06 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 9000 MILES.....	£5495
03 53 DAEWOO KALOS 1-4 SX AUTO PAS POLY SILVER 46000 MILES.....	£3995

### VOLKSWAGEN

08 58 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 5 DR 6 SPD AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£9995
08 58 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 5 DR 6 SPD AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£9495
07 57 VW POLO 1-4 S DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 2000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 VW POLO 1-4 S DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 17000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 VW GOLF 1-6 S DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 VW GOLF 1-6 S DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 10000 MILES.....	£10995
05 05 VW POLO 1-4 TWIST 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 30000 MILES.....	£6995

### ASTRA HATCHES

08 08 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS HATCH ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES.....	£8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANNACOTTA 6000 MILES.....	£8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR 5 DR TURQUOISE UNDER 300 MILES.....	£8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLACK BLUE 15000 MILES.....	£7495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR METRO BLUE 14000 MILES.....	£7495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR TURQUOISE 10000 MILES.....	£7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR TURQUOISE 16000 MILES.....	£7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 4000 MILES.....	£7995
07 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES.....	£6495
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS SDR SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C HATCH PAS ULTRA BLUE 12000 MILES.....	£6995
06 06 ASTRA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR 5 DR POMMEGRANITE 12000 MILES.....	£5995

### ASTRA ESTATES

08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£8995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 14000 MILES.....	£8995
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06 06 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO SDR ESTATE PAS AIR BLACK 12000 MILES.....	£6495

### NEW ZAFIRA & MERIVA 5 & 7 SEATS MPV'S

08 08 ZAFIRA 19 EXCLUSIVE DIESEL AUTO PAS BLACK MET 8000 MILES.....	£12995
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08 57 ZAFIRA 2-2 CLUB AUTO PAS PANNACOTTA 7 SEATER 1700 MILES.....	£10995
08 57 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS PANNACOTTA 7 SEATER 10000 MILES.....	£9995
07 57 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS METRO BLUE 7 SEATER 10000 MILES.....	£9495
07 07 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS SILVER 7 SEATER 17000 MILES.....	£8995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR STAR SILVER 3000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 5000 MILES.....	£7995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR STAR SILVER 4000 MILES.....	£7995
04 04 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ULTRA BLUE 42000 MILES.....	£4995

### RENAULT SCENIC'S

08 08 GRAND SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES.....	£11995
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08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£10995
07 57 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GOLD 16000 MILES.....	£8995



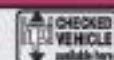
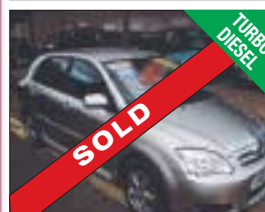
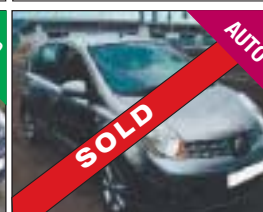


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£5,495**2006 56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE**  
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5dr, 1 owner, A/C, Alloys, 25k  
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1 owner, A/C, 28k  
£6,495**2006 56 SKODA FABIA**  
1.2 Classic, 5dr, 1 Owner, A/C, 10k  
REDUCED £4,995**2006 56 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 T-SPIRIT,**  
3dr, 1 owner, A/C, Alloys, 20k  
£7,495**2007 56 FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC**  
Climate, 5dr, 1 owner, air con, 18k  
£6,495**2006 06 FORD C-MAX 1.6**  
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 22k  
£6,995**2002 52 ROVER 25 1.6 IL AUTO**  
5dr, 1 Owner, A/C, 33k  
REDUCED £2,995**2007 56 FORD FIESTA  
1.25 ZETEC CLIMATE**  
5 door, 1 owner, s/history, A/C, alloys, 18k  
£6,495**2006 06 RENUALT CLIO 1.4**  
DYNAMIQUE, 5dr, A/C, alloys, 33k  
REDUCED £5,995**2006 56 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 SE AUTO**  
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 34k  
£6,495**2006 56 TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 T3**  
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 14k  
£7,295**2006 56 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 LIFE T/DIESEL,**  
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**AGILA**

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2005	55	Agila Expression	1.0	5	Star silver	24,800	3,695
2009	09	Agila Design Auto	1.2	5	Sugar white	2,290	9,495
2009	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta blue	6,230	8,995
2009	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	5,210	8,995
2009	09	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Atlanta blue	6,350	8,995
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta blue	Del mileage	10,495
2009	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Sugar white	Del mileage	10,495

**ASTRA**

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Panacotta	21,950	8,495
2006	56	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Moonland	28,600	7,395
2006	56	Astra Active	1.6	5	Silver lightening	36,800	6,995
2007	57	Astra Design Auto	1.8	5	Moonland	7,825	8,750
2008	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Green spirit	3,725	9,995
2008	58	Astra Sri TBO X Pack	1.6	3	Metro blue	8,300	12,995
2008	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Flame red	12,000	9,995
2008	58	Astra Sri Ex Pack	1.8	3	Black sapphire	5,960	12,495
2009	09	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver lightening	7,190	10,845
2009	09	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.7D	3	Black sapphire	6,250	11,695
2009	09	Astra Club	1.4	5	Star silver	5,690	9,795
2009	59	Astra Sxi Sports Hatch	1.6	3	Sovereign silver	Del mileage	12,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi	1.4	5	Technical grey	Del mileage	11,995
2009	59	Astra Life A/c	1.6	5	Metro blue	Del mileage	11,995
2009	59	Astra Active	1.4	5	Black sapphire	Del mileage	11,995
2009	59	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	Del mileage	12,995

**CORSA**

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2007	07	Corso Design	1.2	5	Black sapphire	13,000	7,495
2007	57	Corso Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Air blue	25,800	7,995
2008	57	Corso VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	14,950	11,995
2008	57	Corso Design Auto	1.4	3	Star silver	34,500	7,795
2008	08	Corso Breeze	1.2	3	Star silver	12,220	7,995
2009	09	Corso Club Auto A/c	1.4	5	Air blue	3,250	9,995
2009	09	Corso Sxi CDTi A/c	1.3	3	Black sapphire	9,670	9,995
2009	09	Corso Active	1.2	5	Silver lightening	6,520	8,995
2009	09	Corso Sxi A/c	1.2	5	Metro blue	2,190	9,995
2009	09	Corso Design Auto	1.4	5	Air blue	3,610	10,995
2009	59	Corso Active CDTi	1.3D	3	Metro blue	Del mileage	£9,995
2009	59	Corso Life A/c CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	Del mileage	10,395

2009	59	Corso Active CDTi	1.3D	3	Metro blue	Del mileage	£9,995
2009	59	Corso Sxi A/c	1.4	3	Star silver	Del mileage	10,495
2009	59	Corso Life A/c CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	Del mileage	10,395

**INSIGNIA & SIGNUM**

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2009	58	Insignia Elite Auto Nav	2.0	5	Star silver	6,300	18,995
2009	09	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	9,300	13,995

**MERIVA**

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06	Meriva Design	1.4	5	Silver	36,030	6,995
2006	56	Meriva Life A/c	1.4	5	Steel blue	19,730	6,495
2007	57	Meriva Design CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	34,950	8,695
2009	09	Meriva Design	1.4	5	Air blue	3,260	9,995
2009	09	Meriva Active CDTi	1.3D	5	Ultra blue	8,750	10,695

**TIGRA**

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Air blue	30,500	8,495

**VECTRA**

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	06	Vectra elite CDTi (150)	1.9D	5	Black Sapphire	38,125	7,995
2007	07	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	19,350	8,495
2007	57	Vectra CDTi Elite (150ps)	1.9D	5	Black sapphire	44,510	9,495
2008	08	Vectra Design	1.8	4	Panacotta	25,050	9,495
2008	08	Vectra Sri	1.8	5	Black sapphire	27,800	8,995
2008	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15,390	9,295

**ZAFIRA**

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	56	Zafira Club	1.6	5	Metro blue	40,250	7,795
2009	09	Zafira Sri XP CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	3,780	16,495

**USED VANS**

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2007	07	Combo Crew van, PAS	1.3CDTi	Dr	White	8,700	£7,495+VAT
2009	09	Vivaro LWB Double cab	2.0CDTi	Dr	Silver	6,120	£13,995+VAT

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## Senior & General Appointments 46-46



### THE THOMAS AVELING SCHOOL

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Email: [office@thomasaveling.co.uk](mailto:office@thomasaveling.co.uk) Website: [www.thomasaveling.co.uk](http://www.thomasaveling.co.uk)



### Home School Support Worker

37 hours per week – (term time only + 3 weeks)

Salary: NJC Scale C1, point 17-26 pro-rata (£16,830 - £22,221 fte)

We seek to appoint from April 2010 a Home School Support Worker to support families whose children are experiencing difficulties and to help them participate fully in school activities. The successful candidate will be expected to liaise with the school Children's Team and be able to offer:

- Experience of working with children and families
  - Good communication skills
  - An ability to mediate, negotiate and problem solve
  - A willingness to work with other agencies
- On appointment, the HSSW will be part of the Medway Home School Support Worker Network and have access to training and a link supervisor.

It will be essential for the successful applicant to have a clean driving licence and to be willing to work outside of term time and beyond school hours as required.  
Job Description available on request.

### Cover Supervisor

Term Time – 31.25 hours per week (Term time plus 5 development days)

Salary: NJC Scale D2 point 12 – Point 21 (presently £15,039 - £19,126 fte)

A rewarding opportunity has arisen for a pro-active organised and self-motivated person to join a successful and over-subscribed secondary school to provide teaching cover supervision across the school and cover for absent colleagues as required to a maximum of 25 lessons per week. In addition, the successful applicant will be required to support student behaviour management systems and may occasionally be required to undertake other reasonable tasks commensurate with the role as may become necessary from time to time. The position additionally represents a good opportunity for anyone considering a career in teaching to gain valuable experience in a teaching environment.

**CLOSING DATE FOR BOTH VACANCIES: WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**

Interviews to be held w/beg 22 February 2010

(please note only short-listed candidates will be contacted)

Please send your letter of application, clearly stating to which position you are applying, together with a completed Application Form (available on the school website) and CV to: Mr.S.Rayner, Finance and Business Manager, to the above address.

The Thomas Aveling School is an equal opportunities employer – committed to safeguarding the welfare of all students and an enhanced CRB check will be required for the successful applicants.

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or e-mail: [sales@wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk](mailto:sales@wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk)

### Visit Kent

Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent. We are a public/private sector partnership supporting Kent's £2.5 bn visitor economy.

We are expanding our team thanks to support from our stakeholders and successful applications for grant aid from the EU 2 Seas Interreg IV A Programme. We are seeking energetic and experienced individuals who first and foremost love Kent and are passionate about encouraging visitors to Kent.



### Finance Coordinator

(French speaker preferred), Canterbury based but able to travel to Maidstone approximately twice a week and to France. The Netherlands and Belgium periodically for meetings. The focus of the role will be the preparation of monthly management accounts, budgeting and forecasting, cash flow, organising and supporting external audit of EU 2 Seas Interreg IVa projects, monitoring of project budgets and budget holders. Must have excellent systems skills (Excel & Sage) and be capable of robust and detailed analysis as well as the ability to liaise at senior levels. Experience in a financial environment and with European projects preferred.

Relevant tertiary qualifications required although **candidates actively studying will be considered.**

Salary £25,000 - £30,000

Visit [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk) for more details of the positions and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or [sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk](mailto:sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk)

Closing date for applications: 24th February 2010.  
This advertisement first appeared on 10th February 2010.

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the District and Borough Councils, Tourism South East and the leading private sector tourism businesses in Kent.



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or email: [mike@riddingtons.co.uk](mailto:mike@riddingtons.co.uk)



### Marketing Assistant

Visit Kent is the official tourism delivery body for Kent. We are a public/private sector partnership supporting Kent's £2.5 bn visitor economy.

We are expanding our team thanks to support from our stakeholders and successful applications for grant aid from the EU 2 Seas Interreg IV A Programme. We are seeking energetic and experienced individuals who first and foremost love Kent and are passionate about encouraging visitors to Kent.

### Marketing Assistant

This role will involve all aspects of campaign delivery including PR, online, briefing agencies, printers, and fulfilment houses, the production of a range of marketing material and the analysis of marketing results. The successful candidate will have a marketing background with experience of working in the tourism industry and will be a confident, outgoing person with excellent communication skills and ideally proficiency in French.

Salary £17,000 - £20,000

Visit [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk) for more details of the position and application details.

For further information, please contact Sharon Dawson on 01227 862789 or [sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk](mailto:sharon.dawson@visitkent.co.uk)

Closing date for applications: 19th February 2010.  
Interviews will be held on 25th February in Canterbury.  
This advertisement first appeared on 10th February 2010.

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You will have experience of working with vulnerable children and adults and an understanding of the complex needs and issues facing people with caring responsibilities. You will need excellent communication skills at all levels. You must be able to engage in flexible working hours including occasional weekend working.

**Appointments are subject to the Swale Carers Centre receiving an enhanced disclosure from the ISA/CRB which is considered acceptable. Swale Carers Centre is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.**

For further information and an application pack please contact:

Sandie Hornby—Chief Operations Officer: Swale Carers Centre,  
Suite 9, Bank House, Broadway, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1TW  
or telephone 01795 583440 or visit [www.swalecarers.org.uk](http://www.swalecarers.org.uk)

**Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: 24th February 2010**

**Interview Date: 1st March 2010. To be held in Sheerness**

Swale Carers Centre is a member the Princess Royal Trust for Carers Network and offers good working conditions, a comprehensive training programme, essential car users & mileage allowance and pension contribution.



Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Operations in Kent offer vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years and adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate, raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

**We have the following vacancies at our Chatham New Bridge House Centre:**

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We are looking to engage a highly motivated, organised individual who has empathy with this client group. The post holder will be required to co-ordinate the activities and take responsibility for the Nacro 14-16 year old Alternative Curriculum programmes across Kent and Medway. This post will suit someone who has a background in education and who is keen to ensure that all young people receive the education appropriate to their needs.

This position is subject to an enhanced CRB check

### SKILLS FOR LIFE/FUNCTIONAL SKILLS TRAINER (PART TIME 16HRS) (MATERNITY COVER)

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Good time management is a must as well as to be able to communicate effectively at all levels both verbally and in writing.

You would be required to work as part of a team and under your own initiative.

Experience of challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

This position is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

**Contact [colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk](mailto:colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk) or call Colin Farrow on 01634 818301 for an application pack.**

**Closing date for both vacancies is 8th March 2010.**

### ROMNEY MARSH CARERS - HOME CARE WORKERS

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**Please call Claire Churchman on 01932 223050  
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### Community Support Workers - MOST (Paddock Wood)

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For detailed information concerning this position please contact  
Katherine Osborne on 01892 839990

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For detailed information please contact Steve Shepherd on 07947 794307

### HR Assistant (Maternity Cover) - (Pembury)

Full or part-time maternity cover required. It will be necessary to have a flexible approach to work and a willingness to assist in all areas within the HR Department. Good interpersonal skills and an excellent attention to detail and accuracy is required. Previous HR experience is preferable but not essential but previous administrative experience is essential. For the HR position all applications must include a covering letter explaining reasons for application and salary expectation.

Application Forms for all positions above can be obtained from the  
HR Dept on 01892 822168  
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*All positions are subject to enhanced clearance from the  
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This role encompasses preventative and routine maintenance of production equipment, buildings and the installation of new equipment in a manufacturing environment. The successful candidate should possess at least 5 years of previous engineering experience in this environment. Turning/welding skills would be an advantage. A full driving license is essential.

Hours of work for the above 2 positions will be Flexible 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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The ideal candidate will have 3 years experience in a similar role, have good excel skills and experience of working with ERP systems. You must be a good team player, have good communication skills and be able to work on your own initiative. The position is based at the production site in Ashford in Kent.

Hours of work will be 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday.

We offer a competitive salary, holiday entitlement and productivity bonus scheme.

For an application form, please telephone 01233 646599 or alternatively send a detailed CV, quoting your current salary to:-

HR Department – Recruitment, Saulfon Pharmaceuticals Limited, Unit 8, Mace Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent - TN24 8EP alternatively email:  
[SimonIK@saulfon.co.uk](mailto:SimonIK@saulfon.co.uk)

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Picture ALAN BOURNE



UNLUCKY: Medway battled for little reward

# Park stun brave Medway late on

A DEPLETED Medway gave promotion-chasing Charlton Park a thorough examination before a late collapse gave the score line a flattering appearance.

The home side were well in the game until the final ten minutes, when Charlton ran in two of their three tries to move up to second in London 3 South East.

Medway had recorded one of their best results of the season in the autumn when they shocked Charlton Park with a 15-7 win. They looked intent on finishing the league double at Priestfields on Saturday, starting at a fero-

## RUGBY

### Medway 0 Charlton Park 22

cious pace. Twice in the first ten minutes they created scoring chances, only for the final pass to go astray.

The high-flying visitors had barely got out of their own half when they broke on 20 minutes to score a try against the run of play. Good defensive work from Medway kept the gap down to five points at half-time.

Charlton stretched their lead to 8-0 shortly after the resumption courtesy of a penalty. Medway were handed a lifeline when the visitors had a man sin binned for a high tackle, but they could not take advantage despite a lengthy spell spent camped in Park's 22.

Charlton sealed victory late on once they returned to full strength, scoring two converted tries in the final ten minutes. It was harsh on Medway, whose efforts went unrewarded.

Taff Gwilliam's side stayed fifth in the table ahead of this Saturday's trip to fourth-placed East Grinstead.

## ICE HOCKEY

Picture DAVID TREVALION



BRACE: Nicky Lewis scored two in both games

## Dynamos do the double to stay top

### Invicta Dynamos 4 Wightlink Raiders 1

AFTER a fortnight without any competitive games, a refreshed Invicta Dynamos returned to action with two hard-fought victories last weekend.

The Mos won 5-2 at Oxford Stars on Saturday and followed it up with a 4-1 win at home to Wightlink Raiders 24 hours later. The successful double ensured they remain top of National League Division One South, four points clear of nearest challengers Bracknell Hornets with three games in hand.

Both last weekend's opponents are out of the title race but still represented dangerous opponents. Oxford had conceded 11 goals in both their trips to Gillingham in the first month of the season, but had improved markedly in the interim.

### Brace

The Mos made a fast start and were ahead inside a minute thanks to a goal from Nicky Lewis. They stretched their lead through Joe Johnston to finish the first period 2-0 up, but needed a brace from Peter Vaisanen in the second period to maintain their advantage after Oxford scored twice.

The points were only made safe five minutes from time when Lewis scored his second goal of the night to seal a 5-2 win.

It took the Mos longer to get going against the Raiders, but two goals in six seconds saw them build a first period lead. Lewis and Andy Smith were on target and it was all that separated the two sides until Lewis added another on 35 minutes.

The Raiders pulled a goal back in the final frame, but a late strike from Smith sealed an excellent weekend's work.

The squad face another double header this weekend. On Saturday they make the trip to play Milton Keynes Thunder, before hosting Haringey Greyhounds at the Gillingham Ice Bowl a day later. Face-off on Sunday is at 5.15pm.



Picture ADRIAN LANE

OFF TARGET: Rob Denness (left) and Brendon Cass came closest to scoring, but Chatham Town endured another frustrating afternoon on Saturday

# Promotion looks doubtful as Chats' losing habit sticks

## FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

### Chipstead 1

Rivers 75

### Chatham Town 0

concede it's all doom and gloom. People have already said we should be building for next season but if we carry on like this we might not have the opportunity to do that. I don't want to be a mid-table side and until I'm told we can't make the play-offs or even top ten, that's when you look at next season."

The Chats were without the suspended John Wilfort or Ben Payne, who missed out with a virus. Neither side could muster much attacking threat early on, although Rob Denness saw a header drift just wide on the quarter hour mark.

Brendon Cass twice shot wide in a good spell for the visitors midway through the half, which Town just about shaded.

The game did not improve after the break,

### Chatham Town starting XI



Subs used: Pullen (May 76), Hollington (Avery 82)

with both sides struggling for quality in the final third. It looked to be heading for a goalless draw, but Chipstead struck through Sean Rivers 15 minutes from time. Chats goalkeeper Dean Ruddy got a hand to a cross from out wide but it fell straight to Chipstead's top scorer, who headed home.

The visitors lost Richard Avery to an injury late on and although they built up a late spell of pressure, an equaliser never looked likely.

O'Brien said: "We can't get too down and out but it wasn't a very good game for us. Individually we didn't create much and didn't hit the target as much as we should have done. Whoever scored first was going to win the game. They took their chance and held on."



# Line-up change pays off as Gills get crucial point

## FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Yeovil Town 0

Gillingham 0

GILLINGHAM'S players paid back Mark Stimson's faith in them with a determined display at Yeovil Town on Saturday which showed they at least have the stomach for a relegation scrap.

The squad arrived in Somerset on the back of last Tuesday's miserable defeat against Tranmere, in a performance that looked like a team sleep walking towards relegation, so it was perhaps fitting the result saw them drop into the bottom four for the first time this season.

Stimson was not sure he would even still be in charge for Saturday's game and his selection had a whiff of desperation about it. Garry Richards and Adam Miller, who appeared to have been frozen out in recent weeks, returned to make their first starts since October, while top scorer Simeon Jackson was one of several regulars dropped to the bench.

The Gills boss admitted it was a risk, but the hard-fought point justified the line-up.



IN FROM THE COLD: Adam Miller (above) and Garry Richards helped ease the pressure on Gillingham

He said: "We gambled a bit on some of them but it paid off and it's what you have to do sometimes, take a little gamble knowing at the back of my mind these boys are fully committed. They've been here a while, they know what it's like going to Wembley and winning, they know the hard graft you have to put into that, while some of the others maybe don't understand that yet."

Richards in particular had an outstanding game. The centre-half may appear a crude instrument at times but he did exactly what was asked of him, demonstrated by a superb early block from Dean Bowditch to keep the scores level.

### Gillingham starting XI



The visitors shaded a poor first-half but the game opened up after the break. Alan Julian had little to do all afternoon but made one excellent save on 55 minutes, tipping Nathan Smith's wayward cross on to the crossbar.

Within a minute the Gills created a glorious chance to pinch maximum points. Miller's cleverly disguised pass saw Curtis Weston break the off-side trap and round the goalkeeper, only to watch in agony as his shot from an acute angle rebounded off the post with the net gaping.

Gillingham weathered a late surge from the hosts and held on for a deserved point. It edged them out of the bottom four on goal difference and while the position remains perilous, it gave them something to build on ahead of home games against Bristol Rovers and Leyton Orient in the next week.

The contrast to the Tranmere game was best shown by the supporters, whose boos of exasperation created a toxic atmosphere last week. The 252 who made the trip cheered the side on the final whistle, although only time will tell if Saturday's result was the start of something meaningful or merely a stay of execution.



## TEAM TALK

with Gills skipper  
**BARRY FULLER**

## We do care about this club, says Fuller

IT WAS great to have Chris Dickson turn up at training on Monday, it's always good when you feel the club are strengthening the squad.

I wasn't here when Chris was at the club last time, but there are still a few people around from that team. The gaffer's been after him for a few months now and I'll think he'll be a good signing for us.

He fitted in straight away and is just looking forward to Saturday now. Up front everyone is fighting for their place, it wasn't long ago we only had one or two strikers but now we've got lots of options.

It was a good boost to build on Saturday's performance at Yeovil, which was probably one of the first times this year we'd shown really good spirit away from home.

We were really down after last Tuesday's defeat against Tranmere because we were so disappointed with the performance. We knew we had to come away with something from Yeovil and fortunately we did it.

We hope it was a pleasing game for the fans. They are probably as frustrated with the away days as we are, but I think they saw the spirit and commitment we showed.

Some people might think after a few games when the going gets tough that it doesn't matter to the players. Well, their body language might not show it but I can assure the fans everyone in the squad does care. We've had a lot of home truths thrown at us over the last few weeks and we know we have to knuckle down to stay League One players.

We've got a couple of winnable games coming up now, if we can build on Yeovil then we could really push clear of the bottom four.

## LEAGUE TABLES

(BEFORE LAST NIGHT'S FIXTURES)

### COCA-COLA LEAGUE TWO

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1 Norwich City	31	20	6	5	+34	66
2 Leeds United	29	18	8	3	+29	62
3 Charlton Athletic	30	15	12	3	+20	57
4 Colchester United	30	16	8	6	+16	56
5 Swindon Town	29	14	11	4	+10	53
6 Millwall	30	14	10	6	+13	52
7 Huddersfield Town	29	13	9	7	+20	48
8 Milton Keynes Dons	30	14	4	12	+1	46
9 Bristol Rovers	29	12	3	14	-9	39
10 Brentford	29	9	11	9	-1	38
11 Carlisle United	29	9	10	10	+1	37
12 Walsall	29	9	10	10	+1	37
13 Leyton Orient	30	9	9	12	-5	36
14 Yeovil Town	30	8	11	11	-2	35
15 Southampton (+10)	28	11	11	6	+15	34
16 Southend United	30	8	8	14	-9	32
17 Hartlepool United	30	8	8	14	-10	32
18 Oldham Athletic	28	8	8	12	-10	32
19 Exeter City	31	7	10	14	-12	31
20 Gillingham	31	7	9	15	-12	30
21 Brighton & Hove A	30	7	9	14	-14	30
22 Tranmere Rovers	30	8	6	16	-22	30
23 Wycombe Wanderers	31	5	9	17	-25	24
24 Stockport County	29	3	8	18	-31	17

### RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

1 Folkestone Invicta	25	18	5	2	+22	59
2 Croydon Athletic	25	15	6	4	+29	51
3 Fleet Town	26	15	3	8	+20	48
4 Worthing	25	14	3	8	+14	45
5 Godalming Town	24	14	3	7	+14	45
6 Walton & Hersham	26	13	5	8	+7	44
7 Horsham YMCA	26	9	11	8	+6	38
8 Burgess Hill Town	26	10	8	8	+4	38
9 Dulwich Hamlet	27	9	10	8	+4	37
10 Chatham Town	28	11	3	14	-11	36
11 Sittingbourne	23	10	5	8	+13	35
12 Leatherhead	24	10	4	10	+9	34
13 Ramsgate	24	9	7	9	+7	34
14 Corinthian-Casuals	27	10	3	14	-9	33
15 Merstham	26	9	6	11	-9	33
16 Metropolitan Police	24	8	7	9	+6	31
17 Whyteleafe	25	9	4	12	+2	31
18 Chipstead	27	7	6	14	-13	27
19 Walton Casuals	26	6	6	14	-13	24
20 Eastbourne Town	28	4	9	15	-29	21
21 Whitstable Town	24	6	2	16	-33	20
22 Ashford Town	24	3	8	13	-33	17

### KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

1 Faversham Town	19	15	2	2	+36	47
2 Herne Bay	16	12	1	3	+18	37
3 Erith & Belvedere	19	9	3	7	-3	30
4 Hythe Town	14	8	4	2	+25	28
5 Beckenham Town	17	8	3	6	+11	27
6 Deal Town	15	6	4	5	-3	22
10 Tunbridge Wells	18	5	7	6	-5	22
11 Sporting Bengal Utd	20	6	4	10	-21	22
12 Norton Sports	14	5	1	8	-5	16
13 Holmesdale	16	4	2	10	-7	14
14 Corinthian	17	3	3	13	-17	12
15 Fisher	19	3	3	13	-25	12
16 Lordswood	16	1	6	9	-20	9

**FIXTURES (Saturday):** Coca-Cola Football League One: Gillingham v Bristol Rovers; Ryman Division One South: Chatham Town v Eastbourne Town; Kent League Premier Division: Fisher v Lordswood

# Scally backs Gills boss to turn things around

## FOOTBALL

GILLINGHAM chairman Paul Scally will give under-fire manager Mark Stimson time to correct the side's slump in form, saying this is not the time for "drastic measures".

A section of supporters called for Stimson to quit following last Tuesday's 1-0 defeat at home to Tranmere, which saw the club slip into the League One relegation zone.

Although they climbed out of the bottom four with a goalless draw at Yeovil on Saturday, they have only won once in 13 league games and only goal difference is keeping their heads above water.

Scally has always been a vocal supporter of Stimson since making the appointment in November 2007 and following a lengthy discussion over the phone last week, remains firmly behind him.

He said: "When something goes wrong for someone it's only fair to give them the time to try and put it right and that's what he's trying to do."

"I don't think the stage of the season has got anything to do with it. If things aren't right and I was of the view the manager wasn't capable of getting it right or trying to remedy the problem, I would make a change. I don't happen to believe that's the case with Mark."

"I understand why the supporters are so upset because I'm just as upset and so is Mark. Everyone's upset together but now's



BACKING: Gills chairman Paul Scally pictured left

not the time to point fingers and take drastic action that may unsteady the ship even more."

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Gills boss Mark Stimson on what's needed to steer the club away from the drop zone





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**Mrs I Hawkins, Ramsgate.**

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**Mrs E K Fuller, Bridge, Kent.**

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